# Daily Report

# Latin America

FBIS-LAT-87-239
Monday
14 December 1987

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## Latin America

*FBIS-LAT-87-239* *14 December 1987*

CONTENTS

**INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS**

GATT's Dunkel on Uruguayan Round of Talks *[EFE]* ..... 1
Talks Reviewed, Problems Noted *[EFE]* ..... 1
Socialist International Issues Declaration *[Caracas]* ..... 2
Cartagena Countries Lift Trade Restrictions *[Lima]* ..... 2
Briefs ..... 2
CADESCA Elects Officer ..... 2

**CARIBBEAN**

**Cuba**

Soviet Finance Minister on Success of 1987 ..... 3
CEMA Monetary, Financial Affairs Meeting Ends ..... 3
Rodriguez Meets With CEMA Bank Chairman ..... 3
Bank Signs Finance Accord ..... 3
Castro Sends Letter to Area Presidents ..... 3
Soviet Ambassador on Special Assignment Arrives ..... 4
Soviet Delegation Arrives for SNTAP Congress ..... 4
Risquet Meets CPSU's Ligachev in Paris 5 Dec ..... 5
Meets Italian Party Officials ..... 5
Meets With Alessandro Natta ..... 5
Fidel Castro Attends Student Congress ..... 5

**Haiti**

CNG Appoints Provisional Electoral Council *[AFP]* ..... 6
Decree Naming New CEP ..... 7
Parties Ask CNG To 'Resign Immediately' ..... 7
UPN Refuses To Participate in Elections ..... 7
Communique Issued on Caribbean Leaders Visit ..... 8
Canadian Allegedly Commits Electoral Fraud ..... 8
Caritas Protests Coordinator's Manhandling ..... 9

**St Lucia**

Communique Issued by OECS Leader ..... 9

**MEXICO**

President Requests U.S. Aid on Immigration *[UNOMASUNO 4 Dec]* ..... 11
U.S. Needs To Understand New USSR 'Strategy' *[EXCELSIOR 8 Dec]* ..... 11

**CENTRAL AMERICA**

**El Salvador**

Armed Forces Chief on Achievement of Peace *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 11 Dec]* ..... 13
Reaction to Human Rights Official's Murder ..... 13

**Guatemala**

President Cerezo Replies to URNG Proposal *[EL GRAFICO 10 Dec]* ..... 14

Rights Commission Reports Increased Violations ..... 14
Rebels Use Chinese-Made Missiles in Attack *[ACAN]* ..... 15

**Honduras**

Leftist Proposal to Reconciliation Commission ..... 15
Armed Forces Chief Discusses Drug Traffic *[EL HERALDO 8 Dec]* ..... 15

**Nicaragua**

Humberto Ortega on Military Force Levels ..... 16
Ortega, Obando y Bravo on Future Contra Talks ..... 20
Contras Seek Another Meeting ..... 20
Government Postpones Meeting *[AFP]* ..... 21
Contras Try To 'Rescue' Downed Plane ..... 21
Opposition Says FSLN 'Boycotting' Dialogue ..... 21
FSLN Blamed for Peace Process 'Stalemate' *[LA PRENSA 10 Dec]* ..... 22
Wheelock Notes Drought Effects on Agriculture ..... 23

**Panama**

Delvalle Comments on Economy, Acapulco Meeting *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 12 Dec]* .. 24
Delvalle Urges Dialogue, Reconciliation ..... 26
Defense Forces Defend Budget Proposal *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 13 Dec]* ..... 27
PDC Head on 'Senseless' AID, Libyan Policies ..... 27
Panamenist Leader Suarez on Libya Relations *[CRITICA 11 Dec]* ..... 27

## SOUTH AMERICA

**Argentina**

Alfonsin on Visit to Italy, Domestic Issues *[Rome LA REPUBBLICA 8 Dec]* ..... 29

**Bolivia**

U.S. Officials Said Killed, Hurt in Accident ..... 31
Police Official Comments *[EFE]* ..... 31
President Says No Cabinet Restructure Planned ..... 32
COB Secretary Criticizes Government Policy *[EFE]* ..... 32

**Brazil**

Sarney Defends Constituent Assembly's Work ..... 32
President Laments Lack of PMDB Support ..... 33
PMDB Head Supports Bresser's Economic Policy *[O GLOBO 10 Dec]* ..... 34
Airline Employees Begin 48-Hour Strike ..... 34
Bread, Sugar Prices To Increase 14 Dec ..... 34

**Chile**

Pinochet: Plebiscite To Be Held 'Very Soon' ..... 34
Police Investigate Attack on U.S. Citizen ..... 35
Santiago Bomb Attacks, Power Outage Reported *[Buenos Aires TELAM]* ..... 35
Santiago Police Station, FACH Unit Attacked ..... 35
Terrorists Attack Valparaiso Newspaper Office ..... 35
Arrest Made Regarding Attack ..... 36
Explosion Damages Mormon Church in Copiapo ..... 36
Subversives Occupy Radio Station, Air Message ..... 36

**Colombia**

Justice Minister Cited on Ochoa Extradition ..... 37
Pardo Replaces Ossa in Advisory Post *[AFP]* ..... 37
FARC Reiterates Call for Dialogue, Mediation *[EL SIGLO 8 Dec]* ..... 37

**Ecuador**

Congress Head Says People Distrust Government ..... 37
Briefs ..... 38
Agreement With Peru ..... 38

**Paraguay**

Senate Approves Law Banning Use of Emblems *[HOY 11 Dec]* ..... 38
Dissident Colorado Faction Issues Manifesto *[ULTIMA HORA 11 Dec]* ..... 38
PLRA Leader To Be Released on Parole *[EL DIARIO 10 Dec]* ..... 38
Release Order Appealed *[EL DIARIO 11 Dec]* ..... 39
'Solidarity Committee' Created in Brasilia *[HOY 9 Dec]* ..... 39

**Suriname**

Lachmon Sworn in at National Assembly ..... 39
Prime Minister, Cabinet Present Resignations *[AFP]* ..... 39
Problems Facing Country's Politicians Viewed *[Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT 3 Dec]* ..... 40
Henk Arron Interviewed on Nominations ..... 41
Front Holds Most Boards, District Seats ..... 41
Former Assembly Chairman Leaves Office ..... 41
NDP-Held Village Board Holds First Meeting ..... 41

## GATT's Dunkel on Uruguayan Round of Talks

*PY091129 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0156 GMT 9 Dec 87*

[Text] Montevideo, 8 Dec (EFE)—Arthur Dunkel, director general of the GATT, today stressed that at the "Uruguayan round" of talks in Geneva there have been some "interesting proposals" on dismantling protection measures from the United States, the EEC, and the agriculture producing countries.

Dunkel, who is participating in a meeting on the advances of the round of negotiations within the GATT taking place in Punta del Este, 147 km from Montevideo, today met with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

The GATT director held a news conference after meeting the chief of state. He stated "a great deal of progress has been made" to reduce the subsidies that are an obstacle to world trade.

Dunkel also stated the current international economic crisis has contributed to "strengthening the trade system and has influenced the Uruguay round of negotiations."

The GATT director also stated that regarding such topics as agriculture, tropical products, and services, "a supervisory organ has been created which is open to all those participating in the round of talks in order to maintain the status quo and to help in dismantling the protectionist measures."

He added "for the first time a collective scrutiny is being made of the important trade policy measures applied by the participating countries, especially those of the industrialized countries."

According to Dunkel, "the Uruguayan round" of talks, which started 1 year ago in Punta del Este, "has given the participating countries an additional outlet to resist and combat protectionism, either individually or collectively, in all its aspects pertaining to trade."

## Talks Reviewed, Problems Noted d

*PY101558 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0224 GMT 10 Dec 87*

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Punta del Este, Uruguay, 9 Dec (EFE)—Officials of 17 Latin American nations and international organizations today stated the GATT's "Uruguayan round" of talks has run into difficulties due to a disagreement of positions and the lack of "concrete action." Officials did admit, however, "there are possibilities for progress."

The meeting, which is taking place during celebrations of GATT's 40th anniversary, concluded today at the Uruguayan seaside resort of Punta del Este, 147 km from Montevideo, with the evaluation of three positions on the topic of agriculture and the concern of the underdeveloped countries regarding "the lack of advances."

They also highlighted the confrontations which exist regarding services.

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias, who presided over the meeting, has stated there are disagreements regarding the projects on agricultural trade being discussed by the GATT.

"The agricultural sector is one of the most difficult topics because there are very firm positions with very large interests," he emphasized.

For Iglesias "it would be utopian to think the Uruguayan round of talks is going to end up with only the agricultural sector being negotiated, because if there is no progress in other sectors then there will be no progress in that sector either."

Iglesias pointed out the discussion of the agricultural sector is based on three projects: one submitted by the United States, one by the Cairns Group (efficient producing countries), and the third one by the EEC. The proposal of the efficient countries provides for an overall process of reducing the subsidies of agricultural products. The U.S. proposal seeks the total elimination of the subsidies within a 10-year period.

It is Iglesias' opinion that the U.S. proposal "does not state exactly how the process will be carried out, nor does it mention the products that will be involved." According to Iglesias, the EEC's proposal, which is of a protectionist nature, has no support whatsoever.

The problems within the Uruguayan round of talks are also centered on services with advanced technology, with the United States and Brazil leading the various positions.

The U.S. private sector has pushed the administration to obtain an international agreement which will allow access to third markets for advanced technological products, such as communications, according to Iglesias.

Francisco Thompson Flores, economic and trade affairs under secretary at the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, has insisted "the negotiations must be accelerated if and when positive results can be obtained for developing countries." The Brazilian representative has stated that 1 year after the launching of the round of talks "there is nothing concrete, but we are talking to see whether we can establish an improved order for international trade." Regarding services, it is important for Brazil "to achieve a final result which will allow developing countries to continue to develop."

Arthur Dunkel, the GATT's director general, has been very optimistic and he stated "a great advance" has been made to reduce the subsidies blocking international trade.

Uruguayan Carlos Perez del Castillo, the SELA's secretary general, stated that in 1988 "there will be acute confrontations in all areas."

Perez del Castillo summed up the concern of the developing countries regarding the "lack of concrete progress" in the negotiations; to the services and agricultural problems he added another important topic "such as preferential treatment, where there has been no progress."

### Socialist International Issues Declaration

*PA111342 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Dec 87*

[Elsy Barroeta report]

[Text] The Socialist International [SI] Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean has issued a document urging democracy and freedom in Haiti. The document was issued following the SI meeting in Caracas. SI Secretary Luis Ayala read the final declaration to journalists.

The document states Latin America and the Caribbean are facing the most important stage of their history and they must survive democratically, despite an economic crisis which precludes gradual actions. Nevertheless, the SI document recognizes efforts are being made to overcome the situation; this includes the recent Acapulco presidential summit and the Esquipulas II agreements for peace in Central America. Likewise, the document advocates a suspension of hostilities in Central America to negotiate a permanent cease-fire. Referring to Nicaragua, the document specifically mentions cooperation for a true peace.

[Begin Ayala recording] A dialogue is essential in Nicaragua to implement the Esquipulas II agreements. This dialogue should include all parties to the conflict so true peace and democracy can be achieved. It is also necessary for the United States to pledge it will not continue to give financial support and weapons to those forces. We feel it would be appropriate to declare a suspension of hostilities in December to negotiate a permanent cease-fire. [end recording]

Referring to the economic situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, the SI members clearly refer to the developed nations' lack of cooperation to overcome the crisis in this part of the world. The SI says the foreign debt is a political problem and should be handled as such. The SI reasserts the need for a meeting between debtors and creditors, as well as for renegotiating the Latin American and Caribbean nations' foreign debt.

Analyzing the return to democratic regimes, the SI members stated their support for the Chilean political parties' efforts to achieve democracy in that country.

The situation in Haiti, which is quite critical, was also analyzed at length during the meeting. Around 30 people died in Haiti during the last attempt to hold elections, which were suspended on 29 November by the Haitian Government. It was decided to create a committee comprised of eight political parties that will propose actions by the area's nations to support the Haitian people's struggle for democracy and against the dictatorship that dominated them for so long.

The committee created to support democracy and elections in Haiti will continue its meetings. This committee plans to issue resolutions urging the area's countries to support the Haitian people.

### Cartagena Countries Lift Trade Restrictions

*PA120513 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] The Cartagena agreement signatory countries have taken the important step of lifting trade restrictions. The announcement was made by Andean Group Commission President Ricardo Noboa.

[Begin Noboa recording] The lifting of trade restrictions will be done in four stages. The first stage will take place between 31 January and 31 March 1988. In this period, Colombia will lift trade restrictions on 60 items, Ecuador will lift restrictions on 18 items, Peru on 2,476 items, and Venezuela on 648 items.

The second stage will take place between 1 April and 30 June 1988. In this period, Peru will lift trade restrictions on 388 items and Venezuela on 258 items.

The third stage will take place between 1 July and 30 September 1988. In this period, Ecuador will lift restrictions on 34 items, Peru on 388 items, and Venezuela on 258 items.

The fourth and final stage will take place between 1 October and 31 December 1988. In this period, Ecuador will lift restrictions on 35 items, Peru on 388 items, and Venezuela on 259 items.

I must point out that if the Quito protocol were to be put into effect before 31 December 1988, after ratification by all Andean parliamentarians, all restrictions immediately would be lifted and this transition schedule would no longer be in effect, because restrictions on all products would have been lifted. [end recording]

## Briefs

### CADESCA Elects Officer

At a special SELA session Guatemalan Eduardo Stein Barillas has been elected executive secretary of the Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America [CADESCA]. In addition, CADESCA's mission was extended 2 more years. [Summary] *[Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 9 Dec 87 pp 4, 14 PA]*

## Cuba

### Soviet Finance Minister on Success of 1987

*FL121306 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] The progress of socialist finances in 1987 was very successful Soviet Finance Minister Boris Gostev said in Havana. The president of the Permanent CEMA Commission for Monetary and Financial Affairs said the community was affected by the negative tendencies experienced by the Western countries' financial relations on the international market.

He also mentioned the difficulties caused in foreign economic relations because of the continuing fall of the dollar.

### CEMA Monetary, Financial Affairs Meeting Ends

*FL111859 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Text] The 48th meeting of the Permanent CEMA Commission for Monetary and Financial Affairs has ended with a proposal for concrete measures to perfect the monetary, financial, and credit system of socialist countries.

The CEMA commission met for 3 days in the Palace of Conventions. The meeting was attended by 10 member countries and Yugoslavia. The delegates stressed monetary, financial, and credit relations and their influence on the integration and development of new types of socialist economic relations, as well as the perfection of these.

They also approved this year's work report and the 1988-89 (?plan).

### Rodriguez Meets With CEMA Bank Chairman

*FL120345 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0303 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received A. N. Belichenko, chairman of the International Investment Bank [IIB]. The IIB was founded by CEMA member countries in 1970 and Cuba joined in January 1974. From that time on, this institution has granted loans to finance investments in the fields of agriculture, electric power, and electronics. An exchange of views was held on the international financial situation and that of socialist countries members of the CEMA. The Cuban vice president briefed the visitor on the current situation of the Cuban economy and the perspectives of its future development.

### Bank Signs Finance Accord

*FL121154 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1114 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] Cuban National Bank President Hector Rodriguez Llompart and IIB President Albert Belichenko have signed an agreement granting Cuba the equivalent of $31 million in freely convertible currency. The financing was granted on open terms [terminos blancos] and is designated for the purchase of equipment for the Juragua Electronuclear Center in Cienfuegos.

The IIB currently is financing six development projects in Cuba, four sugar mills, one factory manufacturing computer keyboards, and now the Juragua Electronuclear Center, which is among the priority projects of the total CEMA scientific-technical advancement program through the year 2000.

The IIB was founded by CEMA-member countries in 1970 and our country became a member in 1974. Since our membership, we have received financing from this organization for the agriculture, electro-energy, and electronics industries.

### Castro Sends Letter to Area Presidents

*FL111448 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has sent a letter to the eight Latin American presidents who recently met in Acapulco, Mexico. The letter says:

Your Excellencies,

Raul Alfonsin, president of the Republic of Argentina;

Jose Sarney, president of the Federative Republic of Brazil;

Virgilio Barco, president of the Republic of Colombia;

Miguel de la Madrid, president of the United Mexican States;

Eric Arturo Delvalle, president of the Republic of Panama;

Alan Garcia, president of the Republic of Peru;

Julio Maria Sanguinetti, president of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay;

Jaime Lusinchi, president of the Republic of Venezuela:

Your Excellencies:

The diplomatic representatives accredited in Cuba from the group of countries which are members of the permanent mechanism of consultation and political concerted action, of which you are members, have officially presented the foreign minister of the Republic of Cuba with the Acapulco Commitment for Peace, Development, and Democracy. We greatly appreciate this information.

The fact that eight heads of state from such an important group of Latin American countries decided to meet in the fullness of sovereignty to examine the problems of the region and those other universal factors that affect us is a sign of the changes experienced by Latin America and the Caribbean and a taste of our region's potential force when it speaks decisively for its people with a singular and solitary voice.

That is why, at this time, in accordance with the traditions of the Cuban revolution and its well-known political positions, we respond to the fraternal invitation you made to the leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean. We confirm we have assumed, as you requested, the renewed commitment for integration and cooperation for development which will lead us to an authentic community of all our nations.

We appreciate the significance of the Acapulco commitment, not just because of the explicit content of its decisions, but because of the force that drives them and because of the political roots from which they originate.

Firmer decisions could be desired in reference to some of the problems examined and a more dynamic attitude in regard to others; however, more important than this is the agreement reflected by the document on the historic imperative to construct a common development project sustained by one's own initiative and abilities, as well as the willingness to promote the process of regional integration, strengthening of cultural identity, and a more effective presence of our countries in international relations.

Because of the base of concerted action and integration for peace, security, democracy, and social wellbeing which you developed, it is possible for us to build a Latin America that has for 1 and 1/2 centuries constituted a historic and realized project.

The document gives a succinct analysis and we agree on the principal contemporary problems, especially on those that make Latin America and the Caribbean a continent which, instead of advancing regresses economically with tens of millions of men, women, and children tortured by hunger, diseases, and illiteracy. Because of this, it is not a time to look at dissensions, but a time to confirm the agreements. This is what we wish to express to you in this letter on behalf of the Cuban people and its revolution.

In response to your call, it is not possible to disregard the public remarks made by Presidents Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico, Raul Alfonsin of Argentina, Jose Sarney of Brazil, Alan Garcia of Peru, and Julio Maria Sanguinetti of Uruguay, who stressed the benefits of Cuba's integration into the system organizing Latin American and Caribbean countries and the United States of America. Those acts themselves demonstrate the changes which have occurred on the continent since the unfortunate day Cuba was separated from the OAS.

We consider it appropriate to stress that Cuba has demonstrated its unwavering loyalty to the principles of unity and Latin American and Caribbean integration which the Cuban revolution, inspired by Jose Marti, has had as a permanent watchword.

I ask you to accept, Mr Presidents, my own highest personal esteem and the greetings of the Cuban people.

Signed: Fidel Castro Ruz.

### Soviet Ambassador on Special Assignment Arrives

*FL121352 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1234 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] Aleksey Obukhov, Soviet ambassador on special assignment and deputy chairman of the Soviet delegation to the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear weapons in space has arrived in Havana from Washington. The purpose of this visit is to report on the Soviet-U.S. summit which was recently held in Washington.

Ambassador Obukhov was a member of the delegation that accompanied CPSU Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev during his visit to Washington and to the summit.

Lionel Soto, secretary of the PCC Central Committee, and Cuban officials received the Soviet diplomat at the airport. Obukhov was also met by (Vladimir Isiliov), acting Soviet charge d'affaires in Cuba and other Soviet Embassy officials.

### Soviet Delegation Arrives for SNTAP Congress

*FL121530 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] The fifth congress of the National Trade Union of Public Administration Workers [SNTAP] will begin on Monday, 14 December, at 0900 at the CTC's [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] Lazaro Pena Theater.

(Galking Serget), secretary of the International Federation of Public Service Trade Unions, and the Soviet delegation presided over by (Durnechov Yuri Sergeyevic), secretary of the Central Committee of the State Institutions Trade Union, arrived early this morning. The two delegations were received by Oscar Suarez Hernandez, secretary general of SNTAP.

The national delegations from the interior of the country will arrive tomorrow and will attend a gala tomorrow night at the Jose Ramon Rodriguez Lopez social circle.

### Risquet Meets CPSU's Ligachev in Paris 5 Dec

*FL121526 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Dec 87*

[Text] Jorge Risquet and Igor Ligachev, members of the PCC and CPSU Politburos and Secretariats, respectively, met today [5 December] in Paris. The two leaders are heading delegations to the 26th French Communist Party Congress. The meeting was held in the fraternal atmosphere characterizing Cuba-USSR relations. Ligachev and Risquet discussed the favorable evolution of the international situation and the peace prospects opened up by the disarmament agreement to be signed in Washington next week by the top Soviet and American leaders.

### Meets Italian Party Officials

*FL111701 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1522 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Text] Jorge Risquet, PCC Politburo member and Central Committee secretary, has met in Rome with an Italian Communist Party delegation headed by Giorgio Napolitano. At the meeting, both parties emphasized the positive aspects of the agreement signed in Washington by the Soviet Union and the United States eliminating short- and medium-range missiles.

They agreed on the need to link disarmament to the development of the so-called Third World, as well as solving regional conflicts to achieve a just peace. During their conversations in Rome, Risquet and Napolitano emphasized the importance of resolving the regional conflict.

### Meets With Alessandro Natta

*FL120336 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0302 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] A meeting between Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Politburo, and Alessandro Natta, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party, has ended 2 days of talks held in Rome between representatives of the two organizations. A wide range of matters related to peace, disarmament, and the search for negotiated political solutions to regional conflicts were dealt with in the meeting.

Risquet invited Natta to visit our country, and he accepted. The two leaders assessed positively the importance of the agreement signed in Washington between the USSR and the United States. They stressed the role played in that effort by the Nonaligned Movement countries and the movement for peace. Risquet and Natta agreed on the need to link disarmament with the development of Third World countries and to increase exchange of experiences.

### Fidel Castro Attends Student Congress

*FL111856 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Dec 87*

[Excerpts] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, presided over the 1st day of meetings of the 7th congress of the Federation of Midlevel School Students [FEEM]. The meeting began today at 0900 at the Palace of Conventions in Havana. It was a very touching opening session during which the delegates honored the memory of our heroic guerrilla [Ernesto Che Guevara] with a 1 minute standing ovation. [passage omitted]

The more than 1,000 delegates began their meeting by discussing a very important matter; their desire to study. As each delegate spoke, we heard of their problems to obtain study material. Encouraging solutions were also offered to some of the problems.

[Begin recording] [Delegate] I am speaking on behalf of the nursing students. It is very difficult for us to practice what we have learned because we do not have enough sphygmomanometers, stethoscopes, or trays.

[Castro] I don't think each student expects to have his own equipment, does he?

[Delegate] No, Commander, not individually, but we would like to have this equipment—at least on the ward—so we can practice the various techniques we have learned.

[Castro] What wards?

[Delegate] We want to have the equipment on the ward where we practice what we have learned.

[Castro] Most of the students at your school are studying nursing?

[Delegate] Yes.

[Castro] What were those postgraduate studies you mentioned? Are these nurses doing postgraduate work there?

[Delegate] We have postbasic students who have already received their nursing training. They are doing their postgraduate work at our center. They are training to teach nursing.

[Castro] By postgraduate you mean someone who is specializing in a specific field of nursing, right?

[Delegate] Yes. For example, to become an anesthetist.

[Castro] And what a problem they have. Comrade, this same issue came up during a meeting with the medical students. There are quite a few of them, more than 20,000...

[Delegate interrupts] Excuse me, Commander...

[Castro interrupts] A special effort was made to purchase that equipment because we do not make that equipment here; perhaps, someday we will. We have to buy this equipment from China and other places. We had to work hard to get this equipment for the medical students; the case of the medical student is different. They each need this equipment. We have to study the situation and see what these schools need and why they are having those problems. Why don't the wards have this equipment if almost all the doctors have their own. You say the wards don't have this equipment for the students to use.

[Delegate] Commander, there is a deputy minister over there.

[Castro] Let's see what the deputy minister has to say.

[Unidentified deputy minister] Commander, as you know, one of the problems the students mentioned during your visit to Granma was that they did not have enough sphygmomanometers and stethoscopes. Today, all the medical students have their own sphygmomanometer and stethoscope. One of the problems we have is getting the medical students to use this equipment when they are treating a patient, instead of leaving it at home.

However, what the comrade has said does surprise me. She claims there are no sphygmomanometers or stethoscopes on the wards when there is sufficient equipment of this type here in the country. We have even provided every medical student, from 3rd to 6th year, with their own sphygmomanometer and stethoscope. The doctors can buy their own. We don't understand why there are no sphygmomanometers and stethoscopes in the hospital wards. We are going to look into this immediately and give you an answer a bit later. She is talking about a problem involving service and I think the problem is that the student is not given the chance to use the sphygmomanometer, but there has to be one on the ward. These are wards where there are patients who need to have their vital signs checked frequently, and it would be impossible for the nurse to do this without a sphygmomanometer and a stethoscope.

[Castro] Well, well, see how things are discovered. I just received a note that reads: Regarding the problem at the Celia Sanchez Nursing School where 40 sphygmomanometers are needed; the provincial warehouse has 104 sphygmomanometers—this must be a distributing enterprise—and these should have already been distributed. We will find out who is responsible because this is something that should not have happened. You [not further identified] read it, I think you wrote it.

[Delegate] No, I didn't write it.

[Castro] Well, if it was not you, I appoint you interpreter. Figure out what the funny handwriting says. [laughter]

[Delegate] This is to advise us...

[Castro interrupts] Yes, I already read part of it. Read the part that is missing.

[Delegate] It says the trays, also mentioned by the nursing school comrade, were purchased in (?Bonn) and they are at the port. These trays will be distributed immediately. The 104 sphygmomanometers at the warehouse will be distributed immediately. [applause] [end recording]

What should we do in face of the problems presented? Strengthen the work of the FEEM. This was decided during today's meeting.

## Haiti

### CNG Appoints Provisional Electoral Council

*PA120502 Paris AFP in Spanish 0434 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 11 Dec (AFP)—The civic-military National Government Council (CNG) of Haiti announced this evening the creation of a new Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), which will organize and supervise the general elections in Haiti—officially scheduled for 17 January 1988.

Nine persons comprise the CEP, but people are unfamiliar with their names. They are: Jean Gilbert, Frederic Baudin, Elie Laroche, Max Michaud, Joseph Azor, Jean Britto, Lucien Jean Bernard, Samuel Charles, and Clement Maurice Barthelemy. The CNG decree appointing the nine persons does not indicate which organizations they represent.

Four organizations represented in the old CEP, whose members were dismissed on 29 November by the CNG after the elections were annulled—given the massacres perpetrated by neo-Duvalierist groups—had refused to appoint new representatives as requested by the CNG.

The new CEP members should be sworn in tomorrow in Port-au-Prince.

Three of the four main candidates to the Presidency—Marc Bazin, Louis Dejoie, and Gerard Gourgue—have already announced that they refuse to participate in elections organized by the CNG. The Communist Party of Haiti has adopted the same position.

Likewise, the fourth presidential candidate, Pastor Sylvio Claude, has demanded the CNG's removal or the arrival of UN and OAS observers to ensure the elections' security.

## Decree Naming New CEP

*FL121637 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1100 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Monitored in progress]

[Text]...Electoral Council; considering there are grounds to appoint the new members of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP]; upon the recommendation of the ministers of interior and national defense, justice, and information and coordination, decrees:

Article One: Citizens Jean Gilbert, attorney; Frederic Baudin, attorney; Elie Laroche, agronomist; Max Michaud, attorney; Dr Joseph Azor; Jean Britto); Lucien Jean Bernard; Samuel Charles; and Clement Maurice Barthelemy are appointed members of the CEP.

Article Two: A certified copy of this decree will be delivered to each CEP member.

Article Three: This decree shall be published and executed expeditiously by the ministers of interior and national defense, justice, and information and coordination.

Issued at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince on 11 December 1987, 184th year of Independence.

[Signed] Lieutenant-General Henri Namphy, Haitian Armed Forces [FADH], president; Major General Williams Regala, FADH, member; Luc D. Hector, attorney, member.

By the National Government Council. [Signed] Major General Williams Regala, minister of interior and national defense, FADH; Francois St Fleur, minister of justice, attorney; and Gerard C. Noel, acting minister of information and coordination.

## Parties Ask CNG To'Resign Immediately'

*FL112139 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Text] In a joint communique, the Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] joins the MIDH [Movement for the Implementation of Democracy in Haiti], the PAIN [Agricultural and Industrial Party of Haiti], and the National Concerted Action Front [FNC] in asking the provisional National Government Council [CNG] to leave power.

The CNG's latest disposition once again shows clearly the CNG's will to continue to wallow, without the slightest respect for public opinion, in illegality and unconstitutionality, and to lead the country to catastrophe. Particular proof of this is the publication of an electoral calendar even before the formation of a Provisional Electoral Council, alone empowered under the Constitution of 1987 to set up—to organize and supervise— elections.

Consequently, the four political parties and organizations signing this document—the PDCH, the PAIN, the MIDH, and the FNC—aware of our responsibilities to the Haitian people and to the nation, ask that the CNG resign immediately. We inform national and international public opinion that we have already started talks. We are going to try to come up with an alternative to the current government to propose to the nation that will be capable of helping us (?progress peaceably) along the path to democracy here in Haiti.

[signed:] Sylvio Claude, for the PDCH; Louis Dejoie II, for the PAIN; Marc Louis Bazin, for the MIDH; Gerard Gourgue, for the FNC.

So this is an attempt on the part of political leaders to transcend the small differences of opinion that may exist among them and take into consideration, instead, what is more important—the interests of Haiti, the fatherland, and of the Haitian people, in view of the danger the Macoutes now represent for Haiti.

## UPN Refuses To Participate in Elections

*FL112153 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Text] Here is a news release from the Union of Nationalistic Patriots [UPN]:

The UPN denounces the electoral calendar just published by the murderous National Government Council. We consider it a political maneuver, just like the first calendar they published, which culminated in the many crimes in which hundreds of people lost their lives.

UPN said: They will not get away with the maneuver of a second calendar. We ask all popular candidates—we are not addressing candidates who are not serious candidates, those who have very small followings, or those who are willing to sell out the country, but rather candidates who really do have people behind them—to announce they will not send innocents out to die in any murderous election.

There are patriots who have told us they are willing to die for us, and asked us to run for office and they will turn out to vote for us regardless. We thank them for their loyalty, but we inform them we are not willing to send people out to die with only a ballot in their hand again.

We will not participate in elections under this unscrupulous CNG, which is feeding on the blood of the people. We ask all patriots, both male and female, who obtained their electoral cards in order to be able to vote for us on 29 November, to stay cool. All we valiant men and women must organize in order to uproot the CNG. Its time is up. When a mango is ripe, either a breeze will make it fall of its own or a beast of some kind will eat it off the tree, or someone will pick it.

All those willing to sell out the country, all those without a fatherland, can go ahead and participate in the murderous CNG's macoute elections. We ourselves will continue to work with the rest of the patriots until we see an end to the CNG. Victory belongs to the true patriots. We are as one. Together, we can save Haiti.

This press release was put out by Rockefeller Guerre, a former deputy, coordinator of the UPN.

**Communique Issued on Caribbean Leaders Visit**
*FL112129 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Text] A communique from the Ministry of Information in Port-au-Prince concerns the meeting yesterday between the National Government Council [CNG] and the heads of government of four Caribbean countries. Here is what the communique says.

The National Government Council of the Republic of Haiti headed by General Henri Namphy received a group of heads of government of Caribbean countries for special talks at the Government Guest House in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Thursday 10 December. Among them was Jamaican Prime Minister the Honorable Edward Seaga.

With Gen Namphy were Major General Williams Regala, member of the CNG and minister of interior and national defense; Attorney Luc D. Hector, member of the CNG; Colonel Herard Abraham, minister of foreign affairs and worship; Attorney Francois St Fleur, minister of justice; Attorney Francois Gerard C. Noel, minister of social affairs and of information and coordination; Mr Yves Auguste, Haitian ambassador to the United Nations; and Mr (Serge E. Charles), Haitian ambassador to the Ivory Coast.

Prime Minister Seaga was accompanied by John Compton, prime minister of Saint Lucia; James Mitchell, prime minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines; Dom Martina, prime minister of the Netherlands Antilles; Henry Eman, prime minister of Aruba; Dr Neville Gallimore, Jamaican minister of education; and Olivia Grange, minister of state for information, office of the prime minister of Jamaica.

In his welcoming speech, Lt Gen Henri Namphy expressed appreciation for the interest those Caribbean governments are taking in the Haitian situation and in the democracy underway here in Haiti. He mentioned, in particular, the communique put out by the Caribbean group in Miami last week and the role played by the Jamaican delegation at the meeting of the permanent council of the OAS on the occasion of its discussions on Haiti on Monday 7 December 1987.

During the talks, which lasted 4 and 1/2 hours, the parties involved exchanged views on a number of important matters of common interest, particularly as regards the situation of Haiti. This country is undertaking a number of efforts to ensure a transition to democracy through elections, which are to culminate in the swearing in of an elected president on 7 February 1988.

They particularly stressed the following points: the reaffirmation of the sovereignty and independence of Haiti, the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of Haiti, the events that resulted in the annulment of the elections of 29 November 1987, the new electoral calendar announced on 9 December 1987, the formation of a new Provisional Electoral Council, the need to continue the transition to democracy in a climate of peace and security, and the possibility of the Caribbean countries helping Haiti, both before and after the elections.

As regards the elections themselves, the heads of government of these Caribbean countries, the four prime ministers, made a number of suggestions which they feel might be of further help in holding elections in the country. The CNG listened attentively to these suggestions and agreed to examine them in the light of the Haitian Constitution.

The Caribbean leaders expressed their satisfaction at seeing these discussions (?unfold) in a warm and cordial atmosphere, and they decided to maintain contact, in a spirit of fraternity and Caribbean solidarity, as events unfold in Haiti.

The communique is signed by Lt Gen Henri Namphy, Maj Gen Williams Regala, and Luc D. Hector, and Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga, who signed in the name of the Caribbean leaders.

We must point out that this official visit was not announced in advance, the way such visits usually are. Neither was the local press invited to cover the meeting. Only the government media was there. Therefore, only the Ministry of Information and the government media can inform on what transpired during the meeting. There is no other side of the story.

**Canadian Allegedly Commits Electoral Fraud**
*FL112208 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Text] Last night professor Toussaint Desrosiers made a few statements over RTNH [Radio Tele-Diffusion Nationale d'Haiti—the national radio and television station network]. We will have you listen to those statements again.

[Begin recording] [Desrosiers] I am going to talk to you about elections in Borgne and Port Margot. I am not going to talk about what happened in Port-au-Prince, which was a massacre that many deplore. I suppose the government find it regrettable too because they formed a committee to investigate the matter. . They too could

have lost a brother or sister in it. I suppose the investigating committee is going to do its job properly and is going to strongly condemn the incidents and to punish the perpetrators in conformity with Haitian law.

What I am going to talk about is, to me, even more important; because I am going to talk about the unfolding of the elections in Borgne and in Port Margot, where a foreigner brought in lots of money and completely ruined the elections.

The elections would have gone very well, the campaign was going along very well. Suddenly we learned, following a disagreement between a nun, Sister (Rachelle Larame), who is a Canadian member of the Holy Cross congregation, who was working in Borgne as a catechist and mobilized 14,000 people. [sentence as heard]

[Reporter] Mr Desrosiers, excuse me for interrupting you, but if I understood you correctly, you seem to be telling us that a nun was involved in electoral fraud? Is that what you are saying?

[Desrosiers] What was reported is an unspeakable scandal. It is an electoral fraud that no Haitian, who knows what his country is, and who loves his country... [leaves thought unfinished] Take me, for instance. I left what I was doing at the Ministry of Information in order to go to the aid of a population that was starving to death and has all kinds of problems, whose only wealth is being carted off overseas. This can make a Haitian very indignant—to see a nun, who came from where she came from—she is Canadian—brazenly decide that everyone should vote for Gourgue for president and for Adelson for deputy.

And what did this nun do? First of all, she betrayed the spirit of Gourgue himself, because she was going to have an imbecile elected deputy along with Gourgue. The nun came up with lots of money and when Gourgue was on his way to the area, she made everyone dress in white and bought goats and pigs, and so forth, in order to throw a big celebration. Unfortunately, Gourgue got as far as Port-de-Paix and was unable to continue on, and all those people went back home.

[Reporter] Mr Desrosiers, was it the nun herself who invested the money? Was she using her own money for this?

[Desrosiers] I don't know where she obtained the money. We know the money came from abroad in order to be used to campaign in Haiti. But the nun had lots of money in her possession and she also had 7,000 electoral cards in her possession.

[Reporter] That she had purchased?

[Desrosiers] That she had bought. And when we found out about this through a (?leak from among the nuns), we denounced this scandal and the bishopric in Cap-Haitien was obliged to deport the nun.

### Caritas Protests Coordinator's Manhandling

*FL112226 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Text] Caritas/Haiti [Caritas Nationale] announces it has learned—and is very indignant and unhappy about—what happened on the road from Thomonde to Hinche last 4 December, when a Haitian Armed Forces lieutenant arrested (Dieth Charles), who is Caritas' development coordinator for the diocese of Hinche, without a warrant.

They slapped him around and then released him, without judging him. He did not know why he was arrested in the first place. Caritas protests strongly against savage and arbitrary acts such as this, that have been committed for some time now by people who are supposed to protect the population.

We take this opportunity to reiterate our solidarity with the families of all those who were victims of the base acts of barbarism committed on 29 November 1987.

Caritas asks the higher authorities of the Haitian Armed Forces if it is they who (?have ordered) the members of the Armed Forces to commit these base acts, or if the members of the Armed Forces (?are acting) on their own initiative.

We suppose if it is not the authorities who have ordered these acts committed—if they mean what they say; if it is not just talk—they will let everyone know what they decide, and how they intend to make all members of the Armed Forces respect their decision.

The note of protest is signed by (Ernst Verdieu), director general of Caritas/Haiti.

## St Lucia

### Communique Issued by OECS Leader

*FL071509 Bridgetown CANA in English 1900 GMT 30 Nov 87*

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Nov 30 CANA—Following is the communique of the twelfth meeting of the authority of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) November 26-27 which met under the chairmanship of St Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton. (A separate communique was issued earlier on the political unity issue).

Text: "Heads of delegations at the meeting were the Hon Mary Eugenia Charles, prime minister of Dominica; the Rt Hon Herbert Blaize, prime minister of Grenada; Dr the RT Hon Kennedy A. Simmonds, prime minister of

St Kitts and Nevis; the Hon Neville Cenac, minister of foreign affairs of St Lucia, the Rt Hon James Mitchell, prime minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines; the Hon Lavity Stoutt, chief minister of the British Virgin Islands; the Hon Molwyn Joseph, minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda, and the Hon John Ryan, financial secretary and member of the executive council of Montserrat.

The authority welcomed the attendance of the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Mr Alexander Farrelly, at the opening ceremony and following informal discussions with him, agreed to explore areas of functional cooperation in which the U.S. Virgin Islands might participate and to examine possibilities for an institutional relationship with the organisation.

On the question of political unity (closer union) among countries which are members of the OECS, the governments concerned agreed on measures to further advance the process of consultation with the public at large in their respective countries, and on arrangements for technical work that would provide guidance on possible forms of political union.

The heads of government concerned issued a detailed communique on this matter. The heads of government also welcomed the encouraging statement by the bishops of the Roman Catholic Church that [stated] their view that OECS unity could be a stimulus for greater cooperation among Caricom nations.

The authority considered reports from the OECS high commissioners in London and Ottawa on the activities of their missions over the last year. The meeting noted that steps were being taken to restructure the operations of the joint missions to make them move responsive to the trade and development priorities of OECS countries.

The authority expressed concern at the possibility of the closure of the United States Embassy in Antigua and Barbuda and decided to communicate this concern to the government of the United States of America, taking into account in particular the inconveniences that could be caused both to nationals of the northern tier of the OECS sub-region, as well as to United States nationals on vacation and resident in that area.

The authority gave further consideration to the problems of trafficking of narcotics in the area and agreed to give further consideration to proposals for collaboration among the countries of the OECS, together with the government of Barbados and the United States of America.

The authority received a report from the Legal Affairs Committee indicating the conclusions of the recent meeting of OECS attorneys general and also reviewed progress of the UWI[University of the West Indies]/U-SAID Caribbean Justice Improvement Project, and arrangements for law revision in member countries.

The authority took the opportunity to once again review progress on the projects submitted to the European Community for funding under the third Lome Convention, and stressed the urgency of the implementation of these proposals, particularly as they relate to projects for educational development and transportation in the sub-region.

The authority gave consideration to the report of a recently held workshop of fisheries and other officials on developing a harmonised approach to foreign fishing within the OECS region. The meeting endorsed the recommendations of the workshop including restrictions on future foreign access to the reef fishes and those other species which are primarily harvested by local fishermen. They also agreed on a common position with respect to foreign fishing in OECS waters.

The meeting also considered the report of a workshop of officials on maritime delimitation and agreed on certain common approaches to be taken during maritime delimitation negotiations involving OECS countries.

The authority received a report from the Board of Directors of the Eastern Caribbean Investment Promotion Service (ECIPS) now established in Washington and approved the work programme presented.

The meeting of the authority was preceded by a meeting of the Economic Affairs Committee being the ministers responsible for trade and economic development. The ministers discussed a number of issues related to trade, tourism, statistics and international economic policy. They approved of mechanisms for establishing full Intra-OECS Trade Liberalisation in 1988 and the legislative arrangements to be put in place in member countries to ensure this.

The ministers also discussed the OECS quota restrictions regime and accepted the need to give protection to certain OECS and Caricom commodities. They agreed further that the enactment of harmonised customs legislation should take place by April 1, 1988.

The ministers also authorised the Economic Affairs Secretariat to seek support for the establishment of customs and tax administration and training facilities within the OECS sub-region. They also agreed the secretariat should seek assistance for establishing mechanisms designed to further strengthen the economic policy-making and management machinery in the sub-region.

## President Requests U.S. Aid on Immigration

*PA110450 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 4 Dec 87 p 3*

[Article by Ricardo del Muro]

[Text] Yesterday, President Miguel de la Madrid demanded the U.S. Government's cooperation in controlling the excessive flow of Mexican migrants to that country, not only by supporting existing programs, but by establishing frameworks within which bilateral trade can be broadened and diversified to occupy a larger number of workers.

De la Madrid told the members of the U.S. Congress Commission for the Study of Migration and Cooperative Economic Development that at the root of the immigration problem between Mexico and the United States is the great structural difference existing between the two nations, and he pointed out that the way to avoid this phenomenon is to promote Mexico's economic and social development.

The commission, headed by Ambassador Diego E. Asencio, indicated at the meeting with President de la Madrid at his Los Pinos residence that its specific mandate is to consult with the Mexican Government regarding the factors that cause immigration so, based upon this information, it can make recommendations in the field of U.S. Government economic policy through the U.S. Congress.

President de la Madrid explained to the legislative delegation that the U.S. attitude toward our immigration problems is of basic importance and—after pointing out that Mexico very much wants the United States to have an objective opinion regardng the immigration situation—instructed Government Secretary Manuel Bartlett to form a group within the framework of the National Population Council so Mexico can inform the commission of any information it may have regarding immigration, thus influencing the report that will be presented on the subject.

De la Madrid pointed out that from the Mexican side, control of the situation has two broad aspects: a population policy that can influence the country's population growth; and a policy to confront the great challenge Mexico's economy is facing—enough growth to provide well-paid jobs for the people.

"At the bottom of the majority of Mexico's problems is the great challenge of recovering the ability to grow," President de la Madrid said, before pointing out that this economic situation has been met with economic reorganization programs and efforts to improve the Mexican economy's competitiveness abroad.

De la Madrid added that as a result of this effort, the traditional trade deficit has been transformed into a solid surplus; exports have been diversified by decreasing the volume of petroleum exported; and service of the foreign debt has been lightened through international negotiations.

While stressing that most of Mexico's economic problems have been caused basically by structural imbalances, President de la Madrid pointed out that the structural changes made during his government are only the beginning of what should continue to be done in the country.

However, De la Madrid stated that such important structural changes cannot have short-term results and that the transition from the previous state to the new one is not an easy one at all.

De la Madrid said: "Obviously, there is built-in resistance within the society and the government, which must be overcome with great perseverance."

De la Madrid said that it is not possible to think of one or two lines of action to resolve the development problem of a country as huge as ours.

In addition to developing assembly plants, we also need to develop the other various sectors of our economy, to make a serious effort to modernize and increase the productivity of the agricultural sector, and modernize the industrial apparatus.

President de la Madrid added that Mexico has a comparative advantage in continuing to develop a large tourist industry, but that to do so it is necessary to transfer savings, encourage private investment, continue accepting and promoting direct foreign investment in basic sectors, and continue seeking relief mechanisms for the servicing of the foreign debt.

Concerning the foreign debt, President Miguel de la Madrid reiterated that it has its origins in a shared responsibility, because if the debt increased excessively in Latin America it was because of erroneous judgements by both debtors and the creditors.

## U.S. Needs To Understand New USSR 'Strategy'

*PA120321 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Dec 87 p 6-A*

[Editorial: "Severe Questioning"]

[Text] The Soviet Union's former attitude toward Latin America is history. What is now truly important is how the most charismatic USSR leader in decades, who clearly plans to start profound economic and democratic reforms, regards this part of the world. The crux of the matter is that the new Soviet leadership has no strategic interests in Latin America. However, it has severely questioned U.S. policy toward a subcontinent that it regards as its "backyard."

At some point, Gorbachev actually told Reagan: "It was you who placed a time bomb in Latin America in the form of a huge foreign debt." In other words, if anyone has constantly and systematically continued to subvert the subcontinent and spread unrest and the desire for change, it has been the U.S. Government with its attitude of always being interested in its military "alliance" with area countries.

Washington's current interpretation of the roots of the Central American conflict—and potentially in all Latin America—is still bound by the idea that this part of the world is the target of the Eastern bloc's hegemonic appetite. It is time for Washington to understand the new Soviet strategy and to become aware of the true nature of Latin America's problems. Perhaps this will be achieved after the summit meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan.

## El Salvador

### Armed Forces Chief on Achievement of Peace

*PA120225 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 11 Dec 87 p 3*

[Text] The myopia of certain sectors and some politicians precludes the achievement of a true peace because their words are hollow messages blown away by the wind; and there is ambition in their minds and selfishness in their hearts.

This statement was made yesterday by General Juan Rafael Bustillo, chief of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, during the festivities to commemorate Air Force Day. The festivities were dedicated to the Virgin of Loreto, the Air Force's patron saint.

Gen Bustillo clearly stated that real peace cannot be achieved as long as the production sectors, political parties, the government party, and groups comprising the FDR-FMLN, finance sector, etc. stubbornly continue their fratricidal struggle to attain power and dominate the country. He said that anything they say about peace will be empty words and nothing else.

The top-level military leader said: Their empty voices will be swept away by the wind until they join efforts to achieve a true peace, the peace demanded by the long-suffering Salvadoran people.

Gen Bustillo said: Even though a national reconciliation is not yet possible because of our deep political differences, the Salvadoran people who truly love our country and who advocate a sincere solution are anxiously waiting for the achievement of this goal. This goal is an essential element for all the Salvadoran groups' welfare.

He added: The main obstacle in the achievement of peace is the war, which is very complex and difficult to define and to end. The goals of those who wage the war—whether Salvadorans or foreigners—cannot be achieved because their own interests override other considerations and worsen the destruction.

The political parties' leaders should set an example to unite our confused people, and they should use their wisdom to help the nation overcome the terrible state of violence that is prevalent everywhere in the country. This example would counter any ideology or doctrine that only seeks to betray the people and defends foreign interests, he said.

Gen Bustillo added: It is a historical fact that the country's political power is in the civilians' hands and that they must struggle to establish harmony, understanding, and caution.

We, the military forces, are watching patiently but attentively, he said.

Bustillo stated: I do not believe that the war will suddenly end. Many lives have been lost and a lot of private and state-owned property has been destroyed. This is the specific result of the merciless, terrorist subversion, the leaders of which only seek to destroy the country's economic infrastructure without considering that this represents a flagrant violation of individual, family, and national rights.

Unfortunately, Amnesty International and the (nongovernment) Human Rights Commission have not understood this.

The military officer emphasized that the FDR-FMLN leaders' destructive attitude will only lead us to poverty and the destruction of human resources and property. We are depending more and more on the U.S. Government's aid, and this to a certain extent undermines our national sovereignty.

Gen Bustillo added: On the other hand, if the FDR-FMLN wins the political and military war—with all the destruction they have caused—El Salvador's only alternative would be to live off Soviet imperialism's charity.

He also said that this type of war only brutalizes and destroys the people by immersing them in underdevelopment. Bustillo added: If the FDR-FMLN feels that it has rights simply because—according to their romantic rhetoric—they have fought for 7 years, they should not forget that the Armed Forces have existed for more than 150 years and that the Constitution establishes the rules of the game. He noted that the Armed Forces have performed excellently and have saved the country from falling into enemy hands. He said he hopes their sacrifice has not been in vain and that the politicians will fulfill their duty.

### Reaction to Human Rights Official's Murder

PA111602 [Editorial Report] San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 11 December reports on the murder of Joaquin Cardenas, president of the government's Human Rights Commission in eastern El Salvador. The announcer says Cardenas was shot by unidentified men as he was preparing to enter his home in San Miguel "last night."

After an interview with the victim's father, who says his son had no enemies, the announcer reports the president of the government's Human Rights Commission has condemned the assassination of this organization's regional director. The human rights official states in a recording that at this time he does not have the slightest idea who could be responsible for the killing.

This recording is followed by one of Communications Minister Roberto Viera saying the killers are people who "do not want to take the path to peace and national

reconciliation." He noted that this assassination was committed in a similar way to that of Herbert Anaya, another human rights leader.

## Guatemala

### President Cerezo Replies to URNG Proposal

*PA111326 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 10 Dec 87 p 2*

[Text] President Cerezo yesterday afternoon referred to a declaration published by the URNG in the press in the form of a paid advertisement. In that document the URNG said that the meeting in Madrid constituted a political victory for it.

Cerezo said that the people are the only ones who have achieved a political victory; democracy, which is being consolidated, has achieved a political victory. He added that armed groups calling themselves "representatives of the people" have no reason to exist in the country.

The president said that it is clear that extremely violent left-wing and right-wing groups are trying to create a violent image of Guatemala. However, he added, the entire world knows that the political space opened by the people when they elected a solid democratic government is firm and recognized nationally and internationally.

The president said that the URNG would like the government to continue advocating a policy of force against that organization, but that is no longer the case. The URNG is only carrying out violent actions against the will of the people.

He reaffirmed that if the URNG embraces the Constitution of the Republic and agrees to respect the will of the people, it would have the right to participate in the country's politics.

Cerezo reaffirmed that there is no rift within the Army, as the URNG claims, because the Army is a unique and disciplined institution at the service of the Constitution. The Army accepts all government decisions.

Cerezo also said yesterday that the URNG should remember Guatemala has a constitution, a government elected by a majority of the people, and a large number of political parties that are participating in national life.

He added that the URNG is made up of a small group of people who continue to be up in arms "simply because they want to." And this means that they want to continue shedding blood in the country; they are the ones who continue to the fight against the will of the people, who want peace.

As for the possibility of a new dialogue with the guerrillas, Cerezo said that such a dialogue makes no sense. He said that this issue was settled when the government traveled to Madrid, Spain, to tell the URNG that there are no conditions for a dialogue.

In Spain, we told them that the Constitution of the Republic allows everyone to participate in the country's poltics as long as it is done peacefully and without arms.

He also said that if the URNG wishes to discuss government projects or criticize its programs, it should participate in politics inside the country. Cerezo said that the government went beyond a dialogue by giving them the opportunity to participate. They should accept the popular will.

### Rights Commission Reports Increased Violations

PA112014 [Editorial Report] Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish at 0100 GMT on 11 December broadcasts an approximately 10-minute paid advertisement of the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission, CDHG, on "the alarming increase in human rights violations."

The CDHG lists the human rights violations "which have been reported to this commission within the end-of-the-year campaign recently announced by the military leadership." The commission details the actions in specific departments of the country, beginning with Quiche Department, where "Army members and Guatemalan Air Force airplanes have staged many attacks and bombings of the civilian population." It adds that these actions have killed 15 people and destroyed crops and houses.

The CDHG reports other human rights violations in towns in Suchitepequez, Solola, and Chimaltenango Departments, where peasants have been harassed by the Army, their houses have been illegally searched, and several people have disappeared or have later been found dead.

The commission reports that these actions "show that, as in the past, the civilian population is the victim of the attacks by the Guatemalan Army, which, even though the country is in a process of pacification as a result of the Esquipulas II agreements, has not hesitated to violate basic international human rights in its efforts to destroy the revolutionary movement."

The CDHG then demands President Vinicio Cerezo immediately order a stop to the military actions that affect the people's human rights and that contradict the peace efforts Guatemala promised to carry out under the Esquipulas II agreements. It also calls on the congressional human rights commission to investigate the actions and to demand a stop to them.

The CDHG concludes by asking the Guatemalan people to immediately report any violation of their human rights and asking "the international community to express solidarity with the civilian population, who are the victims of the end-of-the-year counterinsurgency campaign, and to demand Guatemalan civilian and military authorities stop these actions that are taking place in the country depsite the existence of a civilian government."

### Rebels Use Chinese-Made Missiles in Attack

*PA131250 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1550 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] It was reported here today that the Guatemalan guerrillas attacked a national police patrol car with a Chinese-made surface-to-surface missile in San Lucas Toliman, in the western Solola Department.

Police reported that the patrol car with two officers was engaged in "routine" cruising when the "surprise" rebel attack occurred.

The Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), one of the four groups comprising the URNG, operates in the area where the attack took place.

According to the police, the missile destroyed the patrol car. However, the driver, Eduviges De Leon Aleciao, and Commander Nelson Oswaldo Juarez were unhurt.

A military patrol was later deployed to the area and "combed" the border zone between Solola and Suchitepequez Departments. The official report claims the operation was "unsuccessful."

## Honduras

### Leftist Proposal to Reconciliation Commission

PA120315 [Editorial Report] San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish on 11 December on page 4 publishes an 800-word document that leftist political organizations and their respective armed fronts comprising the National Directorate for the Unity of the Honduran Revolutionary Movement, DNU-MRH, sent to the National Reconciliation Commission last week. The document, in which the leftists reportedly stated their intent to join the Honduran political process in the future, was signed by DNU coordinator Rigoberto Padilla Rush; the Communist Party of Honduras, PCH; the People's Liberation Movement "Cinchoneros"; the Morazanista Front for the Liberation of Honduras, FMLH; and the Revolutionary Unity Movement, MUR. The document points out the importance of "the sensible and timely use of the 'Esquipulas II' accords" for the country's future.

The organizations proposed that unconventional forces such as the contras and foreign troops, all of whom cause friction with neighboring governments, leave Honduras without the Honduran people having to resort to violence. The DNU-MRH opposes both stationing these forces near the border with Nicaragua and the U.S. base at Palmerola. For these reasons, the leftist fronts propose nine points to the National Reconciliation Commission, all within the framework of "Esquipulas II."

First, the fronts propose the immediate cessation of persecution, torture, murder, and general harassment by security services against leaders and activists of popular organizations. The document asks that the police and security organs rid themselves of those members whom the public holds responsible for repression and the physical and psychological abuse of kidnapped, detained, or imprisoned people.

The document requests that the "B-16" Battalion be disbanded. The battalion is known as the death squad and has been reported to the OAS Inter-American Court of Justice by the Human Rights Defense Committee and the Committee of Relatives of Missing Detainees in Honduras. The document also demands the immediate eviction of the contras from Honduran territory and the abolition or revision of the military treaties signed with the U.S. Government.

The organizations request the amendment of the electoral law in effect so that new parties and independent candidates can be registered and coalitions formed. They also demand the annulment of Law 33, known as the "Antiterrorist Law," because it justifies repression against anyone who disagrees with the government.

The leftists propose the annulment of the National Electoral Tribunal's decision suspending the municipal elections. The document requests an amnesty allowing all those in exile for political or common crimes related to political activities to be pardoned and to return to their homeland.

Finally, the DNU-MRH recommends that the government take the necessary steps to make it possible for revolutionary and popular organizations to have access to the communications media, such as radio and television stations and the press, without censorship.

### Armed Forces Chief Discusses Drug Traffic

*PA111354 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 8 Dec 87 p 33*

[By Alejandro Casco]

[Text] General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, chief of the Armed Forces, yesterday announced in exclusive statements to EL HERALDO that narcotics trafficking has been considerably disrupted by the closure of more than 100 clandestine landing strips that were being used by the smugglers to receive drugs and then export them to the United States.

The military chief said some of those secret landing strips used by the individuals involved in the multimillionaire business of narcotics trafficking had been authorized, but the Armed Forces were not aware of their location.

Last month, a ship carrying 4 tons of cocaine worth $350 million was seized in Florida. The drug was hidden inside pieces of lumber and taken to the United States, thus confirming that Honduras is used by the narcotics traffickers for their illegal activities.

Investigations carried out by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) have determined that the drug was being sent to the United States by the "Puertas de Castilla" firm, a front operating in the Puerto Cortes Free Zone.

The owners of that company are wanted by Honduran justice officials. Some lower-ranking officials of the company have been arrested, however, and proceedings have begun. The factory's bank accounts have been seized.

"Actually, we have found some landing strips that were not on our list," Gen Regalado Hernandez said, adding that "sometimes those strips were authorized by the SECOPT [Communications, Public Works, and Transportation Ministry] maintenance department."

Because of reports mentioning Honduras as a bridge for narcotics trafficking, the Armed Forces chief said, "we will now exercise total control over those landing strips, some of which will be closed, while others will be controlled by the military authorities."

He announced Honduran military authorities and the U.S. authorities have carried out investigations and that DEA officials have arrived in the country. There have been some excellent results, he said, but for the time being it is not advisable to disclose them.

"We are working on this. The Honduran people must understand this is very hard work," the high-ranking officer said.

Regalado Hernandez said the military authorities were surprised several months ago when two Colombian narcotics traffickers, who had been captured after Honduran Air Forces planes forced a small aircraft to land in the Goloson airport of La Ceiba, were mysteriously released.

The officer said at the time it was argued that there was not enough evidence against the pilot and copilot and therefore they were released.

When a civil court judge gave that excuse, Gen Regalado Hernandez said, "We were surprised to learn these people were allegedly released for lack of evidence because 800 kg of cocaine was seized, we presented photographs, and the judicial authorities went to receive the evidence."

Going back to the multimillion-dollar narcotics trafficking business, Gen Regalado Hernandez announced that the Tela judge is being protected by the Armed Forces, as he has received death threats for bringing the individuals in this case to trial.

The statements were made yesterday afternoon when the chief of the Armed Forces swore in the leadership of the 10th graduating class of the Armed Forces officers at the Officers' Wives Club.

## Nicaragua

### Humberto Ortega on Military Force Levels

*PA122328 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1634 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Speech by Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega Saavedra to the fifth national assembly of the Eduardo Contreras Trade Unions at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Excerpts] This fifth national assembly of trade unions held in honor of our brother Eduardo Contreras is taking place amid the cruel war of aggression that our people—with the workers you represent as their vanguard—are heroically fighting against. [passage omitted]

There is another problem, and that is that Reagan—the movie cowboy we once knew and who we know today as a real gunman—must go. There is nothing legally or politically valid that states that the Sandinists must leave. However, it is a fact that Reagan must leave at the end of his term, which will be next year, right? [applause] Reagan who represents the most conservative, reactionary, and imperialist sectors in the United States does not want to leave without at least bringing us to our knees as yes-men to the Yankee empire, as were the oligarchs and bourgeoisie who today want to be in your and our place. [applause, shouts]

Thus far, although he holds the key to the negotiations, Reagan has refused to negotiate with the Sandinists. We have clearly stated our position because we are practical. We clearly understand the historic moment that the world and Latin America are facing, and we [words indistinct] that we have political power and that our flag of national liberation is clearly raised as is our flag of social liberation. First of all, we represent the interests of the classes that in the past were oppressed and exploited here in Nicaragua; however, we also represent Nicaragua's true national liberation, self-determination, defense, sovereignty, and its defense of dignity. In the

past, in the days of Somoza, of the bourgeoisie, of the rightists, our flag was tarnished and our fatherland's integrity was sold out to the United States.

Reagan does not want to negotiate with the Sandinists because he does not want to admit the obvious reality to the world. Reagan is the only one who is unwilling to admit it. The bourgeoisie, the reactionary, and the less reactionary who dream of stripping the Sandinists of their revolutionary ideals must clearly realize one thing: The Sandinists cannot change. We will negotiate, but it must be clear that the Sandinists will continue to be Sandinists, anti-imperialists, and defenders of the oppressed, the exploited, the workers, and the peasants. The United States must learn to coexist with the Sandinists, and it is clear that we will have to learn to coexist with the United States, with its virtues and defects. We must accept that reality. We are only demanding respect. We want to coexist in this region, but we cannot stop being what we are. We began on 19 July 1979, and we are getting stronger every day. We are a free, sovereign, independent, anti-imperialist, revolutionary, and dignified country. We are an example of the best in Latin America, of the best of Zapata, Bolivar, Marti, and of the best of the heroic Latin American people.

We cannot stop being Sandinists, Guevarists [Ernesto Che Guevara followers], revolutionary, Fonsequists [Carlos Fonseca Amador followers], which is what the rightists and the imperialists want. They want us to betray our cause. [passage omitted]

Reagan is desperately and continuously resorting to slander, lies, and campaigns to confuse the people and to secure approval for the $270 million. We are going to mention here some of the campaigns they have engaged in recently. In recent days they began a campaign against the arms build-up policy of the Nicaraguan Government, of the Sandinists. They are going to intensify this campaign within the next few days. Their campaign also deals with our defense relations with the socialist bloc. They are trying to confuse North Americans and other peoples of the world by presenting as something illicit, as something terrible, as something evil the notion that Nicaragua, a sovereign and independent nation, may have relations with the socialist bloc, with socialist countries, in the area of defense. This matter—which concerns our right to have bilateral relations with other countries—is presented by the United States as a crime to confuse the people in a way that would favor Reagan's plans.

We do not have to hide our relations. We are not going to cut off our relations to please the United States. Nicaragua has every right to have relations with any country in the world. We have been free and independent since 19 July [1979]. The United States must understand that Nicaragua is no longer in the U.S. camp. Nicaragua now has leaders; it has President Ortega. It has a reliable, nonaligned policy of self-determination and independence, and we are going to have relations with whatever country we decide to have relations with; that is, if that country wants to have relations with us. [applause]

If they say that Humberto Ortega meets with Raul Castro—yes, I do meet with Raul Castro, and I am proud of it. And if they say that Humberto Ortega has signed defense cooperation agreements with Raul Castro and with our Soviet, Czechoslovak, Bulgarian, or Korean brothers, or with anybody else—well, this is a right we Nicaraguans have, and we will continue to do it. [applause]

We are never going to be ashamed of having the relations we have. Nor will we hide our defense relations with the French, who, in a specific framework of cooperation in this area, provided helicopters and missiles for the Sandinist Air Force, and we have used that to eliminate Reagan's mercenaries, Reagan's children.

Regarding this campaign, we want to head it off by stating that we do not view relations with the Soviet Union or Cuba or with any other country of the world as a crime; we view it as a right. These are relations based on principles, on respect. These relations are not only economic; they also involve culture and defense.

Are we going to hide the fact that our Katyusha-55 tanks are Soviet-made? Are we going to say that we built them here in Masaya? That would be absurd. This does not mean that we underrate the explosives, contact bombs, the sticks of dynamite, and the booby traps made in Masaya that, with the effort of workers and artisans, we are manufacturing to defend ourselves, including in the event of U.S. aggression. [applause]

North Americans, we are not going to change our relations as a result of the aforementioned or any other negotiations. We can talk within the framework of negotiations, but this [a change in established relations] is something else.

The other idea that the revolution's enemies have been trying to sell by campaigning to produce favorable votes in the U.S. Congress, etc., is that the Sandinists continue to support the Salvadoran guerrillas, the Guatemalan guerrillas, the guerrillas of Latin America. With what authority does Reagan tell us that we should or should not support someone when he supports thousands of criminal counterrevolutionaries, killers, and he recklessly gives them missiles [flechas], thus endangering Central American civil aviation and any other civil aviation using this region and other parts of the world?

What authority does Reagan have to tell us that the Sandinists are training an undetermined number of Salvadoran guerrillas on the use of missiles when he has given rockets to the mercenaries, hundreds of rockets with which they have tried to neutralize the Sandinist Air Force, which has not been neutralized and which

heroically continues to fight using pilots to accomplish missions that infantry forces request? Our heroic pilots do this at the risk of their lives.

What authority does Reagan have to say that we are training Salvadoran guerrillas here, to say that we are training Salvadoran guerrillas here [repeats himself], when he has given hundreds of missiles to the mercenaries? The enemies of the revolution will start this campaign within the next few days without any [moral] authority, after having practically given the leftist revolutionaries of the region access to the acquisition of those missiles. I have already mentioned that they [the contras] have already lost dozens of those missiles while trying to escape from us. The enemy has left behind some of those missiles in its camps in Honduras [as heard] while trying to escape to Costa Rica or to Honduras.

The Salvadoran guerrillas have some resources and ways to get weapons. They are basically armed through their own efforts, just as we were through ours. No one provided weapons to us to assume political power; no one gave weapons to us. We got our own weapons with the Sandinists' efforts and skills. We seized weapons from the enemy. We, the Sandinists, did not get weapons in the same way that the contras got aircraft and supply flights from Reagan. Therefore, Mssrs Yankee imperialists, it should be clear to you that if those missiles reach the hands of the Salvadoran guerrillas, or of any other forces, it will be due to your own irresponsibility.

Furthermore, on the... [changes thought] A few days ago General [Rafael] Bustillo, chief of the Salvadoran Air Force, said that the Esquipulas agreements favor Nicaragua and the Sandinists. He added that the contras completely depend on outside sources and foreign aid. Thus, if the agreements are implemented the contras would be left stranded. If the contras' source of support were cut off, they would dissapear. The contras would not have any supplies, and they would be unable to operate from Honduran territory. The Yankees would have to cease supporting the contras. Therefore, the Yankees would say: Well, those agreements would finish off the contras. On the other hand, the Salvadoran guerrillas—the Salvadoran general himself said it—the Salvadoran guerrillas do not depend on outside sources. The Salvadoran guerrillas are now self-sufficient, of course, because this is another kind of guerrilla, one with the people's support, with a cause, with different conditions. This was not said by Humberto Ortega. This was said by Gen Bustillo; he said it. I believe he is a general—I do not know—he is the chief of the Salvadoran Air Force. Therefore, the Salvadoran problem is not whether or not they get those missiles; it is a deeper problem, having to do with Salvadoran reality.

Thus, these men are again waging a campaign; they are trying to wage a campaign to discredit this revolution. They have been waging this campaign continuously through their radios and through their right-wing spokesmen here in our country, trying to confuse the people. There have been different campaigns: the campaign on drugs, which is a campaign seeking to portray an improper image of the Sandinist leaders' morale—this is another matter the enemies of the revolution are once again trying to exploit. The truth, however, is that they in the United States are the ones who consume the greatest amount of drugs in the world. They—the northern superpower—with their system have created the conditions for this evil.

Moreover, not long ago, as you are aware, the comrades in San Juan del Norte downed a gringo [James Jordan Denby], who has proclaimed himself an anti-Sandinist, a Republican, a hard-liner. Of course, this is what he said when he was out there [outside Nicaragua]. Now that we have him inside, he is saying that an interview with him published in a magazine had conveyed an incorrect image of him. Now he is as gentle as a lamb. [laughter] He is very gentle now; he has almost turned into a liberator—he is like a gentle lamb. As you are aware, this gringo is in jail, and we are conducting an investigation.

He has disclosed a number of names; I believe he has already mentioned some 50 or 60 names of U.S. citizens who have farms close to his own farm in Costa Rica, in the Rio San Juan area, where CIA agent John Hull is living. He is a well-known CIA agent who has always been very active as a CIA agent in the war against Nicaragua. He, this gringo who is now in prison, is a friend of John Hull. There are a bunch of gringos out there. We are not going to say that all of them are like this gringo. However, there are a number of gringos who are rabid anti-Sandinists, antipopular, and imperialists. In addition to all of his [Denby's] links with the mercenary forces and with the enemy's activities against the Nicaraguan people, he has links with well-known people who participated in the Iran-contra business, the Irangate in the United States, including Robert Owens. He has admitted to meeting with Owens.

Owens also involved Oliver North. We are also investigating his [Denby's] involvement with drugs. He has a sheet of paper—I made this public when I revealed the case of this gringo who was jailed—that tries to clear Hull from any culpability; it states Hull has nothing to do with drugs because he is a patriot, a man fighting for Reagan's cause in Nicaragua.

That man cannot [words indistinct] such a noble cause. That is what he claims, but we know well that those kinds of people are the most inclined to be involved. We are investigating his involvement with drugs, because we found certain strange things on him, certain strange bags.

We are delving into this issue of drugs because we have been charged with involvement. It is said that Commander Borge and Humberto Ortega have the Air Force at their disposal; that we are allowing drug trafficking here; that we have become rich through drug trafficking; that we have accounts throughout the world as a result of trafficking and other such slanderous charges.

In the next few days, in an attempt to confuse the Congress, they will try to focus discussion on an arms buildup and drug trafficking. [passage omitted]

We have set up a plan, which we have been implementing, that will include some 600,000 organized citizens in the national defensive system—in the permanent, reserves, and militia echelons; and in the entire national security system. We will not renounce this right, whether Reagan likes it or not. Where are we going to get the weapons? That is part of the effort we always have to continue. We also have the obligation to obtain better weapons for everyone—for all those people, and for all those fellow countrymen who have pledged to defend the revolution at any cost. We have an obligation with workers [words indistinct]. Sandino used to fill sardine cans with dynamite and dump them on the Yankees in the Segovia Mountains. We must not laugh at the rudimentary weapons used by the people in the country. They learned how to use traps. Traps are like mines. In Vietnam they used many traps when they ran out of explosives. A trap is like a mine without explosive. When you step on a mine, it explodes; a trap, however, does not explode, but the gringo's feet get stuck in it. [laughter, applause]

You imperialists, we believe we will reach that figure. We currently have over 250,000 people organized and armed for our defense. We are not renouncing this effort. We are sure that with the participation of the working-class people, those in rural and urban areas, we will fulfill all these goals. We will soon have some 300,000 people, and we will try to have some 600,000 properly trained and organized people in the echelons of the country's general defense. With the number we already have, the gringos will have to think carefully. This is no Grenada; they better not think they can come here and finish this up in 2 or 3 days. It will not be like that, no sir.

In addition, we will continue to improve our country's air defense system. We are being threatened, and we are facing U.S. aggression, especially by the delivery of portable antiaircraft missiles to mercenary forces. We intend to improve our Air Force and air defense system with more and better radar systems than the ones we already have. We are training more of our officers. We have several hundred, several thousand officers training in Cuba, the USSR, and in other countries. We have some training here in Nicaragua as well. Some of these courses last 1, 2, and 5 years.

As we develop better technology, as we acquire more modern weapons requiring better trained professionals—because we will not renounce having more modern equipment that can meet our defensive needs. [sentence as heard] It is not our intention to be an offensive army, capable of attacking another country. We simply want to have all the modern weapons needed to defend our country. That is a right we cannot renounce. If the Air Force tells me they want the government to acquire, for example, a faster, more powerful antiaircraft defense system, it is my duty to see they can get it. Why should we renounce that? It is the Nicaraguan people's right. We cannot renounce having an antiaircraft defense system and having more planes. We will continue to work on that in the future.

We will also continue supporting the Nicaraguan position to hold bilateral discussions in this framework of negotiations and in the framework of Contadora, to reach an agreement. We are always willing to discuss the arms issue. However, this does not mean we will renounce having the weapons we believe we need. It must be made clear that we will continue to have the tanks, artillery, armored vehicles, and all the 152-mm, 122-mm, and 130-mm artillery we need. We will continue to have all the portable antiaircraft missiles we need. We will continue to have them while we reach a major agreement. We have even said we are willing to discuss with other Central American nations the different concerns there may be regarding heavier types of weapons. In this regard, I would also like to take this opportunity to say that without renouncing the appropriate process of arming the Army and the people, we will always be willing to reach agreements on certain limits on different types of weapons. For example, if you do not want me to have this or that type of weapon, then I do not want you to have this or that type of weapon. The Yankees want to reactivate the northern triangle [triangulo del norte]. Together, they have more than 200 planes. We do not have a single interception plane, for example.

Regarding the Navy, you all know a good navy is very expensive. It is a matter of the country's development. Here, port officials and port labor unions have many problems. They know about this better than we. Therefore, the progress of our Navy will be slow. However, we do not rule out having more motor launches to protect our coasts. Sea piracy alone accounts for over $40-million worth of stolen shrimp, lobster, and other fish of the sea. With the number of launches we have we can only protect our coasts, without going any farther out at sea to protect our wealth.

As our economy develops, we will be trying to obtain larger tonnage boats. [Words indistinct] to see if we have some larger tonnage boats to patrol our coasts. Such boats would not represent any hazard to any country, much less to the U.S. people, so they should remain calm. I wanted to clarify this point.

I want to thank Comrade Victor Tirado for this opportunity to meet with the comrade workers, because you are the direct link we, the revolutionary leaders, have with the working class to create awareness of this historic moment. I have tried to summarize for you this aspect of defense, but it is impossible to cover all aspects in a short time.

I want to conclude by saying that as long as this war of aggression continues, and as long as Reagan maintains his position, we should continue and [words indistinct] the comrades in the rank and file; we should continue trying to keep the levels of mobilization for the next few months, which we are sure will be decisive months for our revolution. Fortunately, we firmly believe these will be months of victory, of victory, of victory [repeats himself], and of triumph. Long live the Sandinist people's revolution! [crowd shouts: "Long live"] Long live the working class! [applause]

### Ortega, Obando y Bravo on Future Contra Talks

*PA120329 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[News conference by President Daniel Ortega and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo with unidentified reporters following a meeting at the cardinal's official residence in the Las Sierritas neighborhood in Managua on 11 December—recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] We talked about the meeting held in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic. We exchanged views to see if another meeting can be held soon. The cardinal is very much interested in continuing this process so that a new meeting may be held. He will make the necessary contacts with U.S. Government representatives [words indistinct] to see if a new date can be set to continue the talks.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, we are working on it. The logical place for the meeting was Santo Domingo, and it is advisable to [words indistinct].

[Reporter] The cardinal has suggested a face-to-face meeting with the contras [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] No, a face-to-face meeting with the contras would make no sense because [words indistinct] will get nowhere with their proposls. The only [word indistinct] we can accept here is one with the U.S. Government because [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Word indistinct] cardinal about a face-to-face meeting with the United States?

[Ortega] The cardinal is very much interested in fulfilling his role as mediator. He has proposed a new meeting, and a new date will have to be worked out [words indistinct].

[Reporter] What about a Christmas truce?

[Ortega] Well, regarding a truce, I told the cardinal that on [words indistinct] December the contras launched eight attacks against civilian targets. They destroyed bridges, cooperatives, power lines, and [words indistinct]. The Nicaraguan Government made an effort to comply with the truce, but it was not respected by the contras. We have always been willing to work for peace in Nicaragua, and we believe that right now the most important thing we can do is to work for the implementation of a cease-fire.

[Reporter] What is the situation regarding [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] That is still under investigation.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Regarding a Christmas truce, I proposed that the cardinal [words indistinct]. There is at present a possibility of working for the implementation of a cease-fire.

[Question indistinct]

[Obando y Bravo] I was requesting a direct dialogue because an indirect dialogue is too slow. I now see that it is very difficult to hold direct talks. In the meeting we discussed the possibility of holding another meeting in Santo Domingo. Thus, I will contact the Nicaraguan Resistance to discuss a date for the new meeting to see if we can make some progress.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] before Christmas?

[Obando y Bravo] Yes, I believe it is possible to schedule a meeting before Christmas, before 24 or 25 December.

[Question indistinct]

[Obando y Bravo] We have talked about the possibility of holding talks between both the government and the Nicaraguan Resistance delegations. We will see how effective they are. I believe we should continue these peace talks.

### Contras Seek Another Meeting

*PA131844 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Dec 87*

[Text] The Somozist mercenary forces this week requested that Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo prepare a new round of negotiations to discuss a cease-fire in Nicaragua, the prelate said in Managua.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo explained that the contras called him by phone on Wednesday to inform him that they are prepared to continue negotiating a suspension of hostilities against the Nicaraguan Government. Obando y Bravo, also archbishop of Managua, added that in response to the contras' request he will not only speak with the appropriate authorities but will make suggestions and seek a joint solution that will lead to peace.

### Government Postpones Meeting

*PA141420 Paris AFP in Spanish 1304 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[Text] Santo Domingo, 14 Dec (AFP) — Danilo Valle, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Santo Domingo, confirmed to AFP today that the second round of "indirect talks" between the Nicaraguan Sandinist government and the armed resistance, with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo's mediation, has been postponed "a few days."

Valle also confirmed that a meeting was scheduled for today at the archbishop's office in Santo Domingo, where the first round of talks took place on 3-4 December, but the Nicaraguan Government requested the meeting be postponed "due to last minute technical reasons."

He stressed that "it is not a cancellation or suspension (of the indirect talks); it is only a postponement." He added that "(the government) is still willing to agree on a cease-fire" with the rebels, within the framework established by the Esquipulas II agreement signed on 7 August by the five Central American presidents.

The meeting's suspension was also confirmed by Obando y Bravo in a statement he made last night to Santo Domingo's morning newspaper LISTIN DIARIO, which was published today, and also by Dominican Foreign Minister Donald Reid Cabral.

According to LISTIN DIARIO, Obando y Bravo deplored the suspension of the meeting in which "he had great hopes, as it would have been the first time they (the Sandinists and the contras) would sit down face-to-face."

However, Ambassador Valle denied that was a possibility, stating the second meeting would take place as the first, "not face-to-face, but through the mediator."

Valle said the difference with the second round of talks would be that the mediator would be advised by a group of military experts in order to make progress in the discussions to establish a cease-fire, "which is the one and only point on the agenda."

Meanwhile, in confirming the suspension of today's meeting, the Dominican foreign minister also said it was due to "technical reasons," which will delay it "a few days."

Neither Foreign Minister Reid Cabral, Obando y Bravo, nor Ambassador Valle specified what "technical problems" made it necessary to suspend the meeting.

### Contras Try To 'Rescue' Downed Plane

*PA111730 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Text] According to reports from Rio San Juan, the contras tried to rescue the light aircraft in which U.S. mercenary James Denby was flying and that supposedly was carrying weapons and military supplies for the contras in Nicaragua. The plane was downed by EPS defense forces in the Rio San Juan sector.

EPS naval forces attacked the contras' Pirana-type boats that attempted to rescue the light plane. During an inspection by the EPS in the sector, it was determined that the gringo mercenary dropped documents in that area to prevent the EPS from finding more information regarding his counterrevolutionary activities and his links with the CIA.

### Opposition Says FSLN 'Boycotting' Dialogue

*PA111742 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Dec 87*

[Text] A letter signed by each of the opposition parties participating in the national dialogue was delivered to Commander Carlos Nunez at 1100 local time this morning. In the letter the opposition parties made serious charges against the government party and accused it of boycotting the dialogue. The opposition said the government party alone would be to blame if the dialogue fails. This radio station has obtained the full text of the historic letter. Here it is:

Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez, government representative to the national dialogue:

Managua.

Mr Represenative, we, the undersigned parties and political organizations participating in the national dialogue, want to establish clearly and definitively our position regarding the government's termination of the national dialogue by making excuses. This was done to avoid replying to proposals to amend the Constitution as presented by the other 14 parties and organizations participating in the dialogue. The national dialogue meeting scheduled for today, 10 December, was postponed yesterday.

First, we hereby reiterate the contents of the declaration dated 3 December that the 14 organizations issued and in which we demanded an immediate reply to our proposal. In the document, we also said the continuation of the national dialogue would not make any sense if this proposal to amend the Constitution is not included in the national dialogue. We also pointed out that because the Constitution calls for the approval of the proposed amendments by two legislative sessions, it is necessary for the first approval of the proposed amendments to occur during the current legislative session, which ends on 21 December.

In the 2 December national dialogue session the 14 parties and political organizations gave the government a deadline of 9 December to reply to the proposals. This happened after the government requested 15 days to formulate their reply, so that the National Assembly could consider the proposed amendments during the

current session. As a last move, the government representative said this reply would be ready for today's session. He also suggested the illegal and arbitrary procedure of discussing the constitutional amendments he regards as timely during the National Assembly sessions to be held in January next year.

This being the situation, and because of the government's attempts to sidestep the consideration of the amendments, we have the following to say:

By signing the political pluralism and democratization accords included in the Esquipulas II agreement the Sandinist government implicitly pledged to amend the Constitution because it is obviously antidemocratic to put limitations on the autonomy of the electoral service and the university, to permit dynasty building in the Presidency of the Republic, to grant dictatorial powers to the president, to impose the Sandinist Party's doctrine as that of the state, to confirm the special tribunals, and to violate human rights. All of this has been done through articles making the Sandinist police autonomous and eliminating the autonomy of the electoral and judicial services.

Of course, the Sandinist government was well aware that the opposition parties would demand these fundamental amendments, particularly when some of the parties represented at the National Assembly proposed such amendments during the discussion of the draft constitution. At that time parties not represented in the Assembly publicly condemned the totalitarian nature of all those constitutional provisions.

These amendments propose nothing new to the government. It is therefore improper for the government to argue that the proposed amendments are unfamiliar and to request time to consider them. In addition, the deadline for compliance with the Esquipulas II accords and the elections for the Central American scheduled for the first 6 months of 1988 imply that these amendments should first be approved during the current legislature, which ends 21 December, because the Constitution establishes that such amendments must be considered by two legislative sessions.

We hereby reject any legal possibility of discussing the amendments during special Assembly sessions apart from the regular sessions during the current legislature ending 21 December. We regard the government representative's suggestion as a trick to deceive the international public and gain time. The government's only purpose is to sidestep and finally reject those amendments. We also reject the possible presentation in the Assembly of amendments without the opposition's approval as a Sandinist government ploy. Such a presentation would only serve as international propaganda to give the impression that the government complies with its pledges about democratization and pure elections signed in Esquipulas II.

We warn the Nicaraguan people and international public that the Nicaraguan civic opposition, politically united to demand the country's pacification and reconciliation, is aware the Sandinist government has not made good on its pledges. Consequently, we demand the proposed amendments be presented to the National Assembly immediately and be approved prior to 21 December so that they can be discussed in second debate during the 1988 legislature and prior to 31 March. If they are approved by that date, pure, fair, and honest elections can be held, beginning with the election of deputies to the Central American parliament, which should be held during the first 6 months of 1988, according to the Esquipulas II accords.

[Signed] Social Christian Party, Constitutionalist Liberal Party, Nicaraguan Conservative Party, Nicaraguan Socialist Party, Social Christian Popular Party, Central American Unionist Party, Conservative Party of Nicaragua, Social Democratic Party, Democratic Conservative Party, Communist Party of Nicaragua, Independent Liberal Party, FAL Liberal Party, Social Christian Party, and Movement for Unity

## FSLN Blamed for Peace Process 'Stalemate'

*PA121624 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Dec 87 p 2*

[Editorial: "Peace Process Doubly Stalemated"]

[Text] A double stalemate in the compliance with the Esquipulas II agreement occurred when the 14 political parties opposed to the Sandinist regime decided to end the national dialogue in view of the frustration resulting from the Nicaraguan Government's refusal to say it was prepared to make substantial amendments to the Constitution of the Republic.

The first stalemate arose when the Nicaraguan Government not only refused to agree on an "end to hostilities," for which it was obligated to strive, but also when the government failed to decree a short, 48-hour "truce" in honor of the Virgin Mary. Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo had suggested it, and the armed resistence had gladly accepted it.

This way, the Esquipulas II agreement entered a death-like trance, and the Sandinist government is to blame for it.

Knowing the Sandinist regime as we know it, the truth of the matter is that this situation should not surprise us. It would merely confirm the gloomy predictions made for the success of Esquipulas II, which were based on the FSLN's history of noncompliance with its commitments.

Unfortunately, those who bet on the maturity of the Sandinist leadership are now coming to terms with the harsh reality. They are seeing a political and military group that emerged in the country's life with daring,

sudden attacks typical of Latin American guerrillas. After taking power through those means that group is unable to divest itself of its rebel uniforms and dress in the decency of statesmen.

In other words, the FSLN is still living clandestinely, improvising every day, launching attacks with its same violent rhetoric, accusing the whole world of being the cause of its failure, and holding the Nicaraguan people by the throat, with the same intention of slitting that throat as it did when it seized hostages in the past.

Today it is almost obvious that the Sandinist government signed the Esquipulas II agreement, not with the desire to abide by it, but with the understanding that the Central American presidents were offering it the protective shield that it so desperately needs to prevent further aid to the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. Despite the FSLN's continuous claims of having strategically defeated it, every day the RN continues to cause more strategic problems. The Sandinist leaders realized that Esquipulas II was a continuation of Contadora's complicity. They even figured that by 1991 they would probably have five or six more Esquipulases. But that was not the case. The Central American presidents, headed by Oscar Arias Sanchez, meant to give the Sandinist regime one last chance to show the other countries on the isthmus good faith and that it was acquiring political and military decency. That would be the sole possibility of reaching a firm and lasting peace. They [not further identified] acted with sincerity and absolute honesty: We must abide by the bases of the peace process, they said. This process includes a general, broad, and sufficient amnesty, a suspension of the state of emergency, an end to hostilities, and true and effective democratization.

The FSLN apparently had none of this in mind when it signed the Guatemala agreements on 5 August. The results are plain to see: STALEMATES IN POLITICAL AND MILITARY MATTERS. STALEMATES ABROAD AND AT HOME. [Passage in upper case as published] These stalemates represent more deaths and sorrow for the people, more mothers of heroes and martyrs, and more widespread suffering in the country's total economic ruin.

However, we have always admired the FSLN for its ability to contradict itself in a very short time. Admittedly, Esquipulas II has entered a death-like trance, but it still breathes. May (God will it so) the Sandinists reflect and take advantage of these last breaths of life and may they renounce their guerrilla stance, gain the maturity of statesmen, and abide by their obligations. This way they may spare themselves and all of us the tragedy that awaits us.

## Wheelock Notes Drought Effects on Agriculture

*PA111941 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Dec 87*

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, minister for agricultural development and agrarian reform [MIDINRA], has reported the adverse effects of drought on basic grain crops, such as sesame and other exportable products, worth an estimated $40 million. The MIDINRA minister said the drought caused the loss of 1.7 million quintals of the industrial sorghum crop alone. There were also losses in rice, beans, and corn.

[Begin Wheelock recording] Truly, this weather phenomenon has affected our country. Nevertheless, the effect of the drought is even greater in Honduras and El Salvador. During the recent meeting of Central American agriculture and economy ministers in Guatemala City, an appeal for food was made to the international community, the EEC, and the countries that normally give food to those nations whose crops suffer from natural disasters. Honduras has reported the loss of 90 percent of all its late-season crops and El Salvador has reported the loss of 60 percent. The Nicaraguan situation is varied.

Sorghum suffered the greatest damage on the Pacific seaboard, that is to say, 1.7 million quintals. That must be deducted from the 4.6 million quintals we had expected to harvest. As for rice, we anticipated production of 2.2 million quintals, but lost 313,000 quintals. This type of rice is essentially dry-farmed. Total losses can be broken down as follows: Corn, $7.4 million; beans, $21.4 million; sorghum, $7.7 million; rice, $2.5 million—in all, $39 million. This figure does not include agricultural export products and cattle, the effects on which will be observed in 1988. [end recording]

Minister Wheelock said that to cope with this situation an emergency plan will be put into operation in regions 1, 5, and 6, where thousands who have been affected live.

[Begin Wheelock recording] We have outlined a contingency or emergency plan and also a short-term plan to try to resolve the main problems, such as seeds, production, credits, assistance, etc. Dry season cattle-feeding programs will be implemented. The long-term action plan is the one we have been promoting practically from the beginning of the revolution, through all the difficulties. That plan is the strategic solution to the problem of irregular rainy seasons and droughts that we suffer in the tropics. The plan basically encourages irrigation projects in the dry areas and cultivating the land according to a favorable ecological distribution, creating a balance in the use of land for cultivation.

There are certain emergency measures to lessen the impact of drought on cattle-raising, which are basically these: First, we are calling a meeting on Friday of the emergency committee to aid the areas which have become vulnerable due to the drought. In Region 1, following our initial assessment, some 230,000 people from rural and urban areas have been affected. It is very likely that in Region 6 there could be 100,000 peasant families, and it has been mentioned that there some

5,000 families in Region 5, probably about 40,000 people, who have been affected or will suffer due to drought. We are going to request that Regions 1, 6, and 5 be declared emergency areas.

Second, we are going to allot existing bean inventories that ENABAS [National Enterprise for Staple Foods] has in stock plus what we are able to collect in our national harvest programs to be used as seeds in the regions which have the right conditions for them—like Nueva Guinea and Wiwili and the interior of the rural areas, like northern Region 6 and some other areas of Region 1.

Under the contingency plan we are going to allot areas for planting red bean seeds in this upcoming cyle, and even encourage the planting of black beans. This black bean is much more productive than the red one. It is twice as productive, and under the contingency plans we have the capacity to harvest it.

We are also outlining small irrigation areas to encourage bean planting. In some state or private areas with irrigation facilities we are also going to encourage bean production. We are going to organize and encourage contingency plans for sorghum production for animal feed and a sorghum storage program. We want to consolidate harvest and storage capacities so as to have available that level of animal feed necessary to at least keep the cattle alive. We have also instructed the national cattle directorate to authorize export truckers to receive calves under 360 kg, which is currently the limit. We are going to lower this restriction in accordance with conditions in each zone; some will be as low as 320 kg, with some being even lower still. We are also authorizing and instructing all state-run enterprises in the regions that have problems to receive all animals, regardless of age. This can help out the peasants and small, medium, or big producers that have no food in their own units. [end recording]

You have just heard part of yesterday's appearance before the national press by Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman.

## Panama

### Delvalle Comments on Economy, Acapulco Meeting

*PA122129 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Dec 87 pp A-1, C-6, D-10*

[Speech by President Eric Arturo Delvalle at a dinner given in his honor by the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) Managerial Front at the Holiday Inn in Panama City on 10 December]

[Text] I very gratefully accept this great honor bestowed upon me by the PRD Managerial Front because, in addition to being a generous recognition of the administration I have the honor and historic responsibility to lead, it is an incentive for me to work hard and a clear demonstration of faith in our fatherland and its future of progress and democracy.

Those of us who have gathered here must agree that Panama has a promising future. However, for this future to become a reality we all have great tasks and obligations that must be civicly fulfilled in order to have a better Republic and to make its presence felt among the other nations of the world.

I must note the enthusiastic support offered by many Panamanians, including distinguished members of the PRD Managerial Front, to my administration and for the efforts made by the national government to strengthen Panama's production capacity. I also praise the support given in the past few months, when certain groups that reject the dialogue as a valid recourse to find a peaceful solution to political differences—which are endemic to any civilized society—attacked the bases of our economy and fought to oust the legally established authorities. I am pleased to tell you today that government efforts are clearly evident to preserve public order and guarantee the security of private property and enterprises and of the people threatened by dissident groups.

Despite the country's political difficulties during the 3d quarter of 1987, the national economy has maintained a positive growth rate. The economy would have been more prosperous had it not been for the deplorable political incidents that kept the country in a state of traumatic social tension for several weeks. That was a situation that hurt us internationally.

However, two factors favored our economy: the foreign support given to our service-oriented economy; and the boost that it already had after 2 years of steady growth. In view of this, it is estimated that the growth rate for 1987 will be approximately 2.5 percent.

Our economy's foreign market has maintained its growth during the 3d quarter of the year. For example, between July and September 3,289 ships passed through the canal. This is a 2.6-percent increase compared to the same period in 1986. The average traffic of ships increased from 34.9 to 35.8 ships per day, while the volume of cargo increased by 12.3 percent and the tolls collected by 4.3 percent in comparable periods.

The Colon Free Zone has a high volume of trade despite the fact that it was affected by the Colombian-Venezuelan border conflict during the 3d quarter. This conflict affected exports to Aruba and other markets in the Antilles, especially during August. However, the September export figures were the highest for the year.

Approximately half of the agricultural sector gross product is banana production. During the 3d quarter we exported 9.3 million boxes, which is a 16.3-percent increase compared to the same period in 1986. In addition, the yield per hectare increased by 22 percent.

Meanwhile, the increased coffee export quota achieved recently by the Agricultural Development Ministry will allow the collection of foreign exchange that could surpass 15 million balboas.

Despite the behavior of other products from the same sector, the restrictions of credit on these products has continued, especially toward small-and medium-sized producers, as a result of the withdrawal of deposits from the local banking system.

During the 1st half of the year the industrial sector showed a slight improvement over the previous year. Some products, such as cement and beer, demonstrated sustained growth. Another indicator was the consumption of industrial elecricity, which increased by 14.3 percent during the quarter compared with the same period last year.

In the field of construction, during the 3d quarter of the year 28.6 million balboas were paid for construction permits in Panama district, a figure greater than during the same period the previous year.

The sector most affected by the political situation during the 2d half of the year has been the banking sector, which has registered a drop in the total volume of its assets. While the closing of Panama's First Chicago's operations—they were also closed in 10 other countries—reduced the system's total assets by 3.8 billion balboas, other international operations decreased by 800 million balboas.

The reduction of internal deposits by 507 million balboas during the 3d quarter resulted in heavy pressures on the liquidity of the banks that supply local credit, in a system that had had a high level of liquidity that led to internal credit, especially for mortgages and farming credits.

Our country's health demands a healthy economy with sustained growth that will ensure the resources necessary to strengthen our people's social development, because they are the leading creators of national wealth. Therefore, I feel we must intensify our support of private business, especially small- and medium-sized businesses, which do not compete with the larger businesses but complement the productive effort.

These elements of hope on the national horizon are also, fortunately, a reality in the international field.

My recent meeting in Acapulco with seven other colleagues, whose countries in area and population constitute the large majority of Latin America, comforted me and made me feel more optimistic about our future. An extraordinary event took place there—a spontaneous phenomenon, a logical and obvious conclusion, a union of goals and close solidarity—of sincere brotherly support and of the need to mutually complement our actions in the national field. I saw there that despite our size we are not alone; together we are an imposing force, and the great fatherland Bolivar saw through his dreams, his hopes, his doubts, and disappointments will finally become an irreversible fact, because it is our people's most deep-felt desire.

That Latin American homeland found in the hearts of every citizen of this continent and included in all the statements issued on this continent, despite its extraordinary human and geographic diversity, will continue to be strengthened to the extent that we jointly tackle the common problems of our peoples, such as poverty, neglect, the lack of educational and job opportunities, economic and social stagnation, and the presence of injustice and inequality. These factors hinder the strengthening of our democratic systems that are sometimes threatened by foreign interference and the more industrialized countries' imposition of conditions that are negative and impossible to fulfill and that prevent our development. However, the biggest obstacle to our development is Latin America's relationship with the creditor countries because of our nations' huge foreign debt. The payment conditions of that foreign debt, which restrict our efforts to build a better society, are currently the greatest obstacle our governments face in overcoming stagnation and in firmly progressing toward that future of prosperity and full democracy that we all seek and to which we all have legitimate rights.

Panama has proposed a solution to this problem through each country's negotiating with its creditors on the basis of respect and the fulfillment of a number of principles that, if adopted by all the Latin American countries, would constitute a solidaristic framework of action that would end some powers' uncontrolled desire for domination.

The same desire is what is behind other forms of political and economic aggression that we Panamanians are experiencing from the most reactionary U.S. sectors, aggression that has greatly contributed to the destabilization campaign against our government and its democratic institutions and to the impoverishment of our people—to further submit them to those sectors' plans. I vehemently made these actions known in the historic meeting in Acapulco. As a result of my denunciation, the other Latin American presidents rejected neocolonialist practices because they vigorously oppose interventionist practices regardless of their origin and because they view the Panamanian cause with understanding and sympathy.

I wanted to recount my most recent experiences and tell you of the Latin American views because I know the distinguished members of the PRD Managerial Front have deep patriotic roots and because I know you fully share my concerns. Here in this meeting of friends and political allies one can clearly see, in addition to a healthy positive attitude, the firm willigness to maintain the dynamic unity of UNADE [National Democratic Union], both to redouble its strength and implement the

ideals of the PRD, to which you belong, and the common and harmonious vision that unites us; and to adopt the measures that will allow the changes that circumstances demand—so we can consolidate the climate of peace needed in the country to strengthen our economy and to adequately resolve the serious problems we must overcome with serenity, patriotism, and authentic democracy. If unity is usually necessary to progress and to achieve success, for us it is essential in the present national juncture so we can achieve our objectives of promoting the improvement of our people's situation and intensifying the struggle in favor of the nation's democratization.

I can say to you that I am firmly and strongly committed toward democracy and toward the profound desire of the majority of Panamanians who want to live in a free, independent, and sovereign country that has decided to occupy a dignified and respectable place in the international community. I can also assure you that you have a responsible government that respects citizens' rights and that is determined to comply and ensure compliance with the Constitution and the laws of the Republic. Above all, this government is closely linked with its people's real interests, which include the right to a future of liberty, prosperity, and democracy.

In the same manner, I assure you that the democratization process will continue without interruptions, and that, consequently, the country will have unquestionable elections in 1989 with full guarantees that the verdict of the national majority will be respected.

On various occasions I have said the current economic reality of developing countries, particularly the fiscal situation, makes it impossible for the state to continue playing a prominent role in investment policy.

The state must considerably intensify its actions as promoting agent by encouraging production and private investments through faster mechanisms and better decisions and by implementing adequate measures that will effectively reactivate a strong economic development.

You, who constitute the PRD's Managerial Front, are part of UNADE's largest party and are also an important nucleus within that political group. In view of the problems we are facing, the search for solutions, and the need to take action, your party and you have a responsibility of vital importance toward the UNADE group—of which you are the most outstanding pillar—and toward the Panamanian people, who have given you their political support.

The problems mentioned here, the ideas expressed, and the proposed solutions largely reflect our current reality and sketch some of the actions that will be adopted in finding the best ways to overcome the current difficult situation.

However, the ability to act, the effectiveness of those actions, and their positive results will depend to a large extent on the monolithic unity of our political forces that with wise maturity, profound responsibility, and strong determination are facing our domestic and foreign adversaries with replies that measure up to the circumstances, as expected from a serious and dignified government.

Businessmen:

I am sure my government will be able to face the great future challenges, giving them the attention they deserve—particularly the foreign debt problem, the transition toward democracy, and the differences that have smeared our relations with the U.S. Government—if we can count at all times on the effective and steadfast support of all UNADE sectors. There is no doubt that my government will receive that support with the same enthusiasm and wholehearted spirit you have shown me on this memorable night.

To the organizers of this event in my honor and to all the members of the group you represent, distinguished PRD members, my heartfelt and profound gratitude. Thank you very much.

### Delvalle Urges Dialogue, Reconciliation

*PA120300 Panama City Radio Ritmo in Spanish 2336 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Speech by President Eric Arturo Delvalle at a cornerstone laying ceremony for a new gymnasium in Chitre—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] As you all know, Panama has experienced a series of economic difficulties. An economic fence has been erected around Panama because Panama wants to be independent, decide its own foreign policy, and decide how it should behave in its relations with other nations. We will continue with our independent struggle. We will continue seeking peace in Central America, even though some are seeking war. We will continue to believe that Panama has a right to choose its own fate. We will not submit to foreign impositions. [passage omitted]

I urge all Panamanians, all my fellow countrymen, to set aside the attitudes that have resulted from our political emotions, which do not help our fatherland's development and well-being.

For 2 consecutive years the national economy grew at an adequate rate, and, during the 1st half of this year, we doubled that growth rate. However, in recent months the fatherland's deteriorating situation has complicated our plans to increase employment for Panamanians.

I urge my fellow countrymen to put an end to this, to reconsider, to hold dialogues, to talk over our differences. With a love for mankind—particularly now during

the holiday season—we must find the reconciliation that I am sure all Panamanians, from all sectors, are longing for. Your president and government will strive to make this a reality. God bless you all. Thank you. [applause]

## Defense Forces Defend Budget Proposal

*PA132253 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 13 Dec 87 pp 1, A-18*

[By Emilio Sinclair]

[Text] Struggling with inquisitive questions posed by legislators who raise the opposition banner, the Panama Defense Forces General Staff defended its 1988 operations budget before the appropriate legislative commission.

The Legislative Assembly Budget Commission listened for 5 hours to budget proposals presented by the Defense Forces and to speeches by opposition and government legislators, who either defended or deplored the military request.

The Legislative Assembly's Budget Commission, chaired by the Honorable Legislator Rigoberto Paredes, is composed of 15 legislators from the following parties: eight from the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), two from the Labor Party (PALA), two from the Authentic Panamenist Party, one from the Republican Party, one from the Nationalist Republican Liberal Movement (MOLIRENA), and one from the Christian Democratic Party.

The Defense Forces members hope for a 102-million balboa budget in 1988, but it has been rumored that, due to the current crisis, the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry may cut the budget to 94 million balboas.

During the Defense forces budget hearings—the last state organization to present its request to the Assembly's Budget Commission—the entire General Staff was present, headed by Colonel Marcos Justines, chief of the General Staff. Commander in Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega and Colonel Elias Castillo, deputy commander of the ground forces General Staff and G-3 (operations) were absent. Majors and captains who hold strategic positions or who lead key units also attended the budget hearings.

The meetings were held behind closed doors, but it was reported that behind the scene the opposition legislators asked questions about the Defense Forces' funds, the operation of Coiba Island, traffic department resources, and the Defense Forces' internal activities.

It has also been reported that the Defense Forces are faced with considerable expenses for the repair of equipment, traffic lights, garrisons, and public security installations seriously damaged during the recent crisis.

Comptroller General Francisco Rodriguez, accompanied by Deputy Comptroller Abdiel Julio and a Defense Forces technical team, attended the budget hearings. Officials from the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry, headed by Deputy Minister Azael Purcait, and Legislative Assembly President Alberto Aleman Boyd were also present.

## PDC Head on 'Senseless' AID, Libyan Policies

*PA101652 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Dec 87*

[Text] Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], has made the following statements regarding AID's departure from Panama:

[Begin Arias recording] I have been surprised by what I would describe as the senselessness of the government's current foreign policy. I refer, for instance, to the expulsion of the AID personnel from Panama. I think a majority of Panamanians regard this as a senseless measure. This is very much like the case of kicking a man when he's down. More specifically speaking, programs of benefit to our people who need them are being jeopardized, such as the scholarship program, the PANAJURU [National Board of Panamanian Rural Youth] program, and various other programs of this type. I think this is a senseless policy.

I also think it is a senseless policy to resume close financial relations with the Libyan Government. The announcement of this decision has truly increased the feeling of insecurity in our country because all of us know Libya represents a source of violence and radicalism in northern Africa and in the Middle East. Linking the public finances of the Panamanian state with Libya is a source of extreme concern to all of us who want a serious and sensible foreign policy of benefit to our country. [end recording]

## Panamenist Leader Suarez on Libya Relations

*PA112246 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 11 Dec 87 p 38*

[Report on interview with Luis Gaspar Suarez, president of the Panamenist Party, by Luis E. Quintero Barrera; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] The Libyans are willing to promote the development of Libyan-Panamanian cultural relations on the basis of three agreements that Panama and Libya have signed and ratified. They are a cultural agreement, an agreement on economic and trade cooperation, and a general agreement on mutual cooperation. The three agreements were signed in Tripoli on 16 April 1977. The National Assembly approved them through Law No 12 on 8 October 1977 and they were promulgated on 12 January 1978. The two governments subsequently exchanged the ratification documents.

The Libyans are offering to purchase raw materials, sugar, rice, and agricultural surplus products. In short, they are willing to buy a large number of Panamanian products.

The Libyan and Panamanian Governments hope to renew and to promote these agreements after a "prolonged lull" in Libyan-Panamanian relations following the death of General Torrijos. Circumstances have caused these relations to become once again very important for both countries.

Luis Gaspar "Toti" Suarez, leader of the Revolutionary [as published] Panamenist Party, stated: "As the high-ranking officials with whom we spoke during our visit to Libya said, if these 1977 agreements had been promoted, if we had moved in that direction, today—11 years after Torrijos' trip—we Panamanians would not be worried about or looking for solutions to the U.S.-imposed diplomatic and trade blockade because Libyan-Panamanian relations would already be well consolidated and would be very effective." [passage omitted]

## Argentina

### Alfonsin on Visit to Italy, Domestic Issues

*PM140908 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 8 Dec 87 p 13*

[Interview with President Raul Alfonsin in Buenos Aires by Edgardo Bartoli; date not given]

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires—Argentine leader Raul Alfonsin is about to leave for Italy. In Rome he will sign a treaty establishing a "special relationship" between the two countries—a comprehensive accord that touches on all sectors of social life, from finance and industry to technology, education, publishing, and the arts. For Argentina this is its first major accord signed since the return to democracy. For Italy it is an entirely new kind of initiative within the context of its extra-European relations—a diplomatic "model" profoundly different from the patterns and low-level dealings of "aid to the developing countries." [passage omitted]

[Bartoli] In the treaty that you are about to sign in Rome Italy establishes with Argentina relations comparable to those that exist between the EC countries. It becomes, in a way, Argentina's representative in Europe. By virtue of its comprehensive nature, this accord can be said to be an event with few precedents in diplomatic history. How, specifically, will it benefit Argentina?

[Alfonsin] We are convinced that it really is something new—not only in the field of bilateral policy between Italy and Argentina but on a worldwide level. For the first time we have succeeded in formulating in concrete terms something that long remained within the sphere of mere rhetoric, namely, the North-South dialogue. This treaty represents the first time that we have engaged in negotiations of such extraordinary substance. It envisages a kind of cooperative status, a development not only of exchanges and foreign trade but also joint participation in technological development. We therefore attach crucial importance to this treaty.

[Bartoli] It has been said that the treaty is in fact intended as an initial boost to a major undertaking aimed at achieving Argentina's economic recovery and the consolidation of the country's democracy. Can this really be expected?

[Alfonsin] I really do believe so. A new phase is beginning. If I may say so, however, we have always felt the presence of Italy throughout our process of consolidating democracy. In our opinion Italy clearly realized how it could help this nascent democracy—a democracy whose birth was marked by an economic crisis due, first, to the external debt and, second, to the fall of international prices. Therefore this treaty, this very special association, and all the plans that we envisage carrying out within its framework—such as ENI [Italian National Hydrocarbons Agency] investments in our petrochemical sector, as well as all the other investments—represent the most significant response that Argentina has received from the developed world. There is no doubt about this.

[Bartoli] Of course consolidating the economy does not mean consolidating democracy. What is the status of this democracy after 4 years of such a difficult existence? What is your overall assessment?

[Alfonsin] I believe we are still in a transitional period but in a solid position, albeit, as I said, under the shadow of this economic weakness, which is reflected in social conflict. It is a miracle that we are managing to grow in this situation. However, we have grown—last year by more than 5 percent and this year, according to our predictions, by approximately 4 percent.

[Bartoli] Let us leave the economic aspect aside for the moment. The question is: How does Argentine democracy fare from the specifically political viewpoint?

[Alfonsin] Politically, I would say that this democracy's future has no problems—apart from the conflicts that must of course be considered inevitable following so many years of authoritarianism. As for the issue that I believe lies behind your question—the issue of the Armed Forces—the chiefs of staff and the military authorities are entirely subordinate to the civil government.

So we undoubtedly have a smooth road ahead of us. Our aim is to achieve a calm Argentina. We still have to pay the price for this, however. We will continue to have excessively loud debates precisely on the economy but we will exert constant pressure in the direction of a consolidation of democracy. We have a far right that manifests certain extremist aspects and characteristics, as is the case in other parts of the world, and we have a crazy left, with a Communist Party that has fallen into the hands of adventurists, that allies itself with Trotskyism, and that preaches against the system. However, these, too, are problems common to many other countries.

[Bartoli] Yes, but allow me to return to the issue of the military. What is the situation following the events of Holy Week when the protest by soldiers demanding the suspension of the proceedings against them prompted civilian street demonstrations demanding democracy? The newspapers carry reports of worrisome events and unresolved issues, such as the Astiz case, concerning a Navy officer accused of killing two French nuns and of shooting a Swedish-Argentine girl in public. In his two trials he saved himself by means of procedural loopholes and now the Navy is demanding his promotion. In other words, has the military at last acknowledged its position in a civilian society or not?

[Alfonsin] I believe so. There remains the historical assessment of how it has happened. As far as we are concerned, our attitude is steadfast and clear and we acted in this way with an awareness of all the implications of the struggles against subversion. I believe that this attitude is not shared by the whole of the Armed Forces, though they do acknowledge the need to submit to constitutional principles and the powers of the institutions.

This is why we have put on trial members of all three services, especially those of higher ranks—and we have done so not with force but, if anything, with moral strength. Let us remember that the Argentine people did not storm a Bastille.

[Bartoli] Apart from the moral strength, was there a political compromise too?

[Alfonsin] There was no political compromise. I assumed the nation's Presidency without any compromise with the Armed Forces, and I did what I believed had to be done. I did not believe that all military personnel could be tried collectively but I did believe that we should be prepared to try the leaders. This is what I believed had to be done to show that there was no longer any impunity. Nevertheless, charges are being leveled even at this policy, for instance, and especially, by the Plaza de Mayo mothers. Their attitude embodies a justification even of those who committed violent actions against the institutions and the nation. [sentence as published]

[Bartoli] What about the trade unions; what are they saying and doing?

[Alfonsin] Theirs is a policy of direct confrontation, which has already led to 12 general strikes. This policy is partly in response to legitimate demands, because what do we ourselves want if not to be able to pay higher salaries and to guarantee people more concrete responses to all their vital demands in terms of living standards, social justice... The problem is the crisis. Nobody in Argentina takes it into consideration; people believe, rather, that it can be resolved by means of a magic spell, by altering the composition of the government—which I will not do—or through the usual "package" of measures... All this is ridiculous. We are in a serious crisis, but we will surmount it, we are surmounting it. This will, however, require time and, above all, a responsible approach. If we were to allow ourselves to be tempted by demagoguery or populism the country would move toward disaster, absolute disaster. To give you an idea of the real nature of the problem, we have to distribute food aid to 5 million people out of this country's total population of 30 million. Even though our conditions are not as drastic as those of other Latin American countries, we are engaged in a constant effort to give the people more social justice, and it is difficult under such circumstances.

[Bartoli] You used the word "populism"—a traditional word in Argentina. In this connection what is your opinion of the new "Peronism", the Justicialist Party that was victorious in the recent partial elections? It intends to be the party of "renewal" and is at least a "renewed" party. What is its present importance?

[Alfonsin] I believe that "justicialism" really has made a major effort to democratize itself and if Peronism is victorious (I hope this will not be the case) it will be because it has succeeded in carrying out this democratization. Therefore, Argentina would not be in jeopardy. Nevertheless, I believe that it would be better for Peronism itself to wait a while longer, pending the better establishment of the rules of the game among the forces active within it, which are seeking an orientation but which have not yet clearly defined it. However, I assure you that there is a huge difference between the old and loudly acclaimed "verticalism" and the present internal elections within the Justicialist Party. We have no cause for concern.

[Bartoli] Now constitutional reform is being discussed with rather more emphasis on parliament. Could such a reform mean a possibility of your standing again for the presidency?

[Alfonsin] Definitely not. I have made this absolutely clear to rule out any suspicion of my wanting a new constitution to my own advantage. No, not only will I not be president but I will not be prime minister either under the new system.

[Bartoli] Let us return to economic matters. You have just returned from the Acapulco meeting of the eight democratic Latin American countries. You discussed your foreign debts. Did you form a united front?

[Alfonsin] More important than any united front is the statement that we issued, that speaks on behalf of 80 percent of the Latin American population. The foreign debt is an important factor but our development is equally important to us, for instance, in the technological field, so it is essential to establish coordination that will avoid wastages of energy (rather like Europe has done through the Eureka plan) and to struggle together to defend ourselves against what we regard as an inequitable international economic order, to defend our prices, to proceed toward a Latin American common market...

[Bartoli] ...That could develop on the basis of the accord between Argentina and Brazil?

[Alfonsin] I will be meeting with the Brazilian president in March. The idea is to introduce periodic and comprehensive lowerings of customs barriers while we continue at the same time along the path of integration on certain points, such as capital goods.

[Bartoli] Partly with the aim of a political integration that will follow the economic integration?

[Alfonsin] I believe the two aspects are parallel. Or, rather, we must work on political integration as a tool for achieving economic integration. I believe it is easier to set a development mechanism in motion by unifying principles and policies through ministerial meetings in individual sectors—from technology to law.

[Bartoli] As a guarantee against authoritarian revivals?

[Alfonsin] It is crucial, crucial. This is why in the Acapulco statement we supported the issue of democracy as a priority. No integration can be considered without democracy. It is crucial.

[Bartoli] Let us return, last, to your visit to Italy. You are very popular in Italy and Europe...

[Alfonsin] Perhaps people would vote for me there, at least...

[Bartoli] Precisely. How popular are you here in Argentina, however? Apart from the latest elections, as a democratic president you have had to please everyone and therefore displease everyone.

[Alfonsin] The periodical opinion polls are, curiously, favorable to me. I have the impression that people want me but will not vote for me... However, let us say that despite the latest election results, I should have some 60 percent of the votes.

[Bartoli] Is your forecast for the next election a confident one?

[Alfonsin] The Radical Civic Union will win.

[Bartoli] What modesty! Why will it definitely win?

[Alfonsin] Look, when I started working in 1981 for the 1983 election campaign I said: "I will win the election," and I did. Now I am telling you: The Radical Civil Union will win; it will gain the presidency of the nation. I am certain of it. Be that as it may, it will not be such a dramatic vote as the previous one, when it was a matter of gaining or losing democracy.

[Bartoli] What is the worst danger imaginable?

[Alfonsin] I neither see nor fear any threats to democracy. Serious problems, yes—concerning the economy, I repeat, with its possible social repercussions. [passage omitted]

## Bolivia

### U.S. Officials Said Killed, Hurt in Accident

*PY120122 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] Aeronautics Minister Jaime Zegada Hurtado; General Guillermo Escobar, commander of the Bolivian Air Force; and (John Errol), the U.S. defense attache accredited in Bolivia, [words indistinct] the accident they suffered yesterday [words indistinct] near the Chapare area in Yungas Department. [words indistinct] They reported that the U.S. officials fell into a ravine, possibly pushed by an avalanche at the site where they were standing. They noted that as a consequence of the accident, one of the U.S. officials was injured and the other disappeared. The Air Force commanding general [words indistinct] said that members of the air group [words indistinct] are carrying out rescue work [words indistinct] at the site of the accident, searching for the two [as heard] U.S. officials engaged in the anti-drug fight.

### Police Official Comments

*PY130132 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0102 GMT 13 Dec 87*

[Text] Cochabamba, 13 Dec (EFE)—The Bolivian anti-narcotics police today confirmed the death of U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Sargeant Kinak, who was carried into the Chimore River by a mudslide while participating in an operation against drug trafficking.

Captain Daniel Enriquez, of the general command against drug trafficking, today said that Sargeant Kinak drowned as he was carried away by the waters of the Chimore River.

Enriquez said Kinak's body has not been found yet, despite an intensive search by the Bolivian Air Force and police rescue teams.

The accident took place yesterday morning, when U.S. Army officers [as received] Kinak and Stewart were hit by a mudslide that pushed them into the waters of the Chimore River, 250 km northeast of Cochabamba.

According to the official report, Stewart, head of the U.S. officers who are training the Bolivian police in the fight against drug trafficking, was rescued and taken to a clinic, where he was admitted in serious condition.

The Bolivian authorities and the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia explained that this incident was an accident, thus denying a report that it was an attack against the many DEA agents who are participating in the struggle against drug trafficking in several parts of Bolivia.

### President Says No Cabinet Restructure Planned

*PY111549 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Text] President Victor Paz Estenssoro does not intend to restructure his cabinet or introduce changes in the new economic policy. Information Minister Herman Antelo has said that the president expressed his support for his cabinet ministers following the harsh criticism they received as a consequence of the latest municipal election results.

Antelo said that President Paz Estenssoro is not considering introducing changes in the new economic policy because this policy represents the only solution to the crisis facing the country. Antelo said that there is no real alternative to the government economic program, adding that the president trusts that the Bolivian people will understand this.

In the last few hours President Paz Estenssoro met with his cabinet ministers and party leaders to discuss the consequences of the recent elections. The leaders were able to iron out their differences and misunderstandings and discuss the reasons for the poor showing at the ballot boxes.

[Begin Antelo recording] The president has asked me to convey, in the name of his government, the following: Neither he nor his government has any intention whatsoever of introducing changes in the economic policy. The government will not change policies which, 5 years after their implementation, have stopped the deterioration of the economy—which is starting to show signs of reactivation. Secondly, there is no real, effective, or cheaper alternative to these policies.

In addition, the present Constitution authorizes the president to introduce changes in his cabinet whenever he sees fit. The president, however, is not contemplating any changes in his cabinet at this time. [end recording]

### COB Secretary Criticizes Government Policy

*PY121806 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2149 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Excerpt] La Paz, 11 Dec (EFE)—COB Executive Secretary Simon Reyes today criticized the government policy of President Victor Paz Estenssoro. Reyes said that Paz Estenssoro's administration is responsible for the loss of half a million jobs.

Reyes told EFE that they criticize the "resettlement" (dismissal) program orchestrated by the government, and the government's intentions of turning strategic state-owned enterprises into private ones.

Reyes added that the so-called program for the rehabilitation of the COB "has created only unemployment, and that the exploitation of minerals, which until recently have been the mainstay of the Bolivian economy, has not been reactivated so far."

Through the "resettlement" program the Bolivian Government has laid off more than 23,000 mine workers, who have not been able to find new jobs and are currently lacking a fixed income.

Reyes said that several technical studies have shown that Bolivia has large reserves of minerals such as tin, lead, silver and zinc. "The government policy is aimed at transferring these reserves to the private sector."

Reyes also added that another state-owned enterprise, YPFB, "is experiencing a progressive weakening through the transference of its funds to the Bolivian National Treasury."

Reyes explained that YPFB's income comes from the sale of its products in the internal market and from fuel exports. According to Reyes, YPFB collected more than $500,000 [figure as received] in 1986.

However, Reyes pointed out that these funds are transferred to the National Treasury, "which allocates more than 29 percent of the country's budget to the Armed Forces and to state security services, instead of promoting prospecting and drilling for oil and oil exploitation."

Reyes added that this situation seriously affects YPFB which is now running the same risks as COMIBOL.

According to Reyes the dismantling of COMIBOL has fostered the process of the weakening of the Bolivian labor movement, because "the mine workers have always been the spearhead of the Bolivian worker movement." [passage omitted]

## Brazil

### Sarney Defends Constituent Assembly's Work

*PY120242 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Excerpts] Brazilians, I wish you good morning today, 11 December, on our radio program.

We have been engaged in a democratic dialogue with the people for nearly 3 years. During this period, we have shared days of great happiness and achievement. We have also lived through difficult times of great problems. We have not hidden or denied anything, and you have never heard me utter one word of regret. I never ceased being optimistic, even amid great troubles. We certainly cannot deny that 1987 has been a very difficult year. We had very high inflation, the economy ran somewhat out of our control, and we had to adopt hard, unpopular

measures, for which I alone assumed responsibility. However, I endured everything firmly and honestly, aware of the greatness of the mission to govern Brazil bestowed on me.

I hope 1988 will be a better year. But we must not forget to thank God for the year he has already given us. Brazil, far from experiencing recession, is concluding a year of growth. We will grow by 4 or 5 percent. We are ending the year with a decreasing unemployment rate. We are ending the year with the country in peace.

My conscience is appeased because I have contributed to Brazilian democracy, a democracy which, I must repeat, I practiced by setting an example of patience and tolerance. I know that if we had an ambitious president who tried to impose his will by banging the table with his fist, as many have recommended that I do, we would be living under a dictatorship or in terrorism today. And Brazil does not want either. Brazil wants peace and tranquillity. That is what the people want. Brazil wants peace, which is the main message of the month of December, because it comes from the hope born of Christmas. Peace on earth for men of good will, and you, Brazilians, are men and women of good will. [passage omitted]

I also want to say that this week I received the diplomatic corps accredited to Brasilia and spoke to them about Brazil's relations with the world. Our relations are impeccable. We advocate solving conflicts through dialogue, not by force, and we want to strengthen our friendship and increase cooperation with all the peoples of the world. I also felt deep satisfaction at the historic agreement signed by the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate medium-range missiles. This agreement marks the beginning of disarmament, and disarmament—particularly nuclear disarmament—is the path to peace.

I also want to say that in 1988 we will continue with our plan of action, which emphasizes the social aspect. As our motto says: Everything for the social aspect. And we did not forget the energy, transportation, and basic industrial sectors, nor did we forget that we must grow, since only growth will bring prosperity, employment, and a developed country.

In the political sector, we expect the Constituent Assembly to draw up a modern constitution to serve a modern country. I will always be ready to help the Constituent Assembly exert its sovereignty and freely decide on anything, including my term in office. I will always support the Constituent Assembly, and I will do everything to facilitate the implementation of its decisions. I will not interfere or promote any resolution. The constitution should make Brazil grow, not turn it into an ungovernable country.

Brazilians, I want to to tell you that the Constituent Assembly must not be judged by the actions of a minority group that in the past months has tried to make it appear as if the nation were suffering institutional disorder. No. The Constituent Assembly must carry out a serious task for which it counts on the support of a majority group made up of men who think of the country, not their futures. We will trust these men.

In conclusion, I want to tell you that despite our difficulties, we must not ignore the progress achieved in 1987. It was a hard year, but we also made progress, as I said. We continue to grow and, above everything, democracy continues to grow and consolidate itself, ensuring freedom for all, improving everyone's standard of living, and increasing the participation of the people. [passage omitted]

## President Laments Lack of PMDB Support

*PY120229 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Text] President Jose Sarney today complained about the lack of support from the PMDB. He expressed these feelings in the town of Piracununga, Sao Paulo State, where he attended the graduation ceremony at the Brazilian Air Force Academy.

President Sarney disembarked at the Piracununga Air Base at 0945 today. He immediately attended the graduation ceremony of 23 cadets. Five of the students were from other Latin American countries.

The president also attended an air exhibition of Tucano planes, which replaced the aerobatics team [esquadrlha da fumaca] this year. The three best students received their graduation swords from the hands of President Jose Sarney.

After the graduation ceremony, President Jose Sarney complained about the lack of support from the PMDB, adding that in the face of this fact, he is governing as best he can.

[Begin Sarney recording] I did not receive solid support from a political party. Everyone knows that throughout the recent period my political support was divided. The PMDB split, thus destabilizing the political support I needed for the transition process.

However, I remained calm and determined to conclude the democratic transition process.

I think I am governing as best I can. But I would like to do much more than we are currently doing. [end recording]

President Sarney returned to Brasilia this afternoon. He said that he rejected the tax on net personal wealth in the fiscal package because this tax could affect many contributors besides rich people. He also explained why he disapproved the tax on fortunes.

[Begin Sarney recording, in progress] ...the tax on fortunes, the riches of those who are wealthy. This is an issue that could and must be studied further by the National Congress. [end recording]

### PMDB Head Supports Bresser's Economic Policy

*PY111414 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Dec 87 p 1*

[Text] Early this week PMDB President Ulysses Guimaraes stopped Finance Minister Bresser Pereira from leaving his post. Bresser voiced his disappointment to Ulysses over the failure by the government and the PMDB to support his economic measures. Ulysses tried to encourage him to overccome the difficulties, such as the negative reaction to his fiscal package.

Following his meeting with Bresser, Ulysses started to rally PMDB support for Bresser. Bresser met yesterday with the PMDB Economy Committee, which has seen in the fiscal package the makings of a social reform measure and promised to approve it if it were submitted as a bill and not as a decree-law.

### Airline Employees Begin 48-Hour Strike

*PY111753 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Excerpts] Airline flight and ground personnel have gone on strike at Brazil's five main airports: Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Recife, Porto Alegre, and Brasilia. The strikers are demanding a 100-percent salary increase, a 41-percent salary recomposition (reposicao) increase, and a 10-percent productivity-based increase. The employers, who do not agree with the 44-percent increase proposed by the higher labor tribunal, have offered a 24-percent increase. The 48-hour strike began today.

In Rio de Janeiro, the strike affected neither domestic nor international flights. [passage omitted]

Only airport police personnel were seen at the disembarkation room for domestic flights. The police are guarding the airport. [passage omitted]

At Porto Alegre's Salgado Filho airport, the Air Force guard was immediately reinforced. There were groups of strikers in front of the airport, but they were closely watched by the police. [passage omitted]

At the Brasilia airport, the airport police guarded the passenger lounges. [passage omitted]

At the Cumbica international airport in Guarulhos, the atmosphere was tense early in the morning because of the reinforced military police guard and because of the presence of Air Force troops. [passage omitted]

The Aeronautics Ministry has reported that it is observing the strike and that the rights of those who want to work will be preserved. According to the Aeronautics Communications Center, neither riots nor groups of strikers will be allowed at the airports. No serious incidents have been reported so far.

### Bread, Sugar Prices To Increase 14 Dec

*PY120234 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Text] Bread and sugar will be more expensive as of 14 December. The price of bread will increase by 15 percent. This means the price of a 50-gram loaf of French bread will increase from 2.60 cruzados to 3 cruzados.

The main reason for the increase in the price of bread is the 25-percent increase in the price of wheat flour.

The price of sugar will increase by 17 percent, and its price will be deregulated as of the same date.

## Chile

### Pinochet: Plebiscite To Be Held 'Very Soon'

*PY121759 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] During a gathering of officials and professionals of the judicial branch and private corporations in O'Higgins Park, General Pinochet said that the plebiscite will be held soon, very soon. Attorney Francisco Vicuna read a message from Justice Minister Hugo Rosende during the rally in support of the president. Speaking before thousands of people, the president listed the achievements of his government in the areas of health, education, justice, and social security, among others. We can say today, he added, that Chile has become a modern country, because we have carried out a silent revolution, because we have advanced and done a lot. The president also talked about the plebiscite. He said that its importance lies in the decision to continue with the development of the country or to return to the situation before 1973.

[Pinochet, in progress] ...my dear friends, very soon, very, very soon, we will have to decide on the future of the fatherland in the upcoming plebiscite to elect the next president. Each Chilean must search deep within his conscience and decide if he wants to continue supporting this process of freedom and progress or if he wants to retrogress and place Chile in a situation such as the one it experienced before 10 September 1973."

Pinochet stressed the responsibility of each Chilean in the plebiscite that will decide the future of Chile.

[Pinochet] [Words indistinct] I have the obligation of inviting all those still undecided to join the crusade we started on 11 September 1973."

Pinochet also made a call, among frequent interruptions by applause, for the people to work for a yes vote in the plebiscite.

[Pinochet] "Today we are called to work for the consolidation of this undertaking. I said before, and I repeat it today, that the task is everybody's responsibility and no one can evade it. Help us make our development the greatest of all goals."

The president also alluded to the large-scale, brutal campaign against Chile and his government in foreign countries as well as in the interior of Chile.

### Police Investigate Attack on U.S. Citizen

*PY112342 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Recorded relay from Temuco]

[Text] Osorno police are investigating an unusual attack on a U.S. citizen named (John Lock Estrens), who for years has been living near Rupanco Lake, where he operates the Los Arrayanes farm located in Piedras Negras. The attack was carried out with an explosive or incendiary device.

It was reported that an employee who expected to be named manager of the U.S. citizen's farm allegedly attacked him when he learned he would not be given the job. The employee hurled the dangerous device at a window of the U.S. citizen's home, destroying the home completely and injuring him seriously.

The police are investigating the attack at the farm in order to determine what kind of device was used, since explosives are uncommon in the rural area of Rupanco.

Another possibility being investigated by the police is that the employee could have used an incendiary device known as a Molotov cocktail which, although homemade, also demands investigation by the police.

### Santiago Bomb Attacks, Power Outage Reported

*PY121946 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1859 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] Santiago, 12 Dec (TELAM-ANSA)—Four bombs exploded at dawn today in Santiago. They did not harm anyone, but caused property damage and a long power outage in an area near Santiago.

This was reported by the Chilean police, who explained that two powerful bombs damaged the power lines between Santiago and the port of Valparaiso (100 km from Santiago), causing a power outage.

Two other attacks took place in slums on the outskirts of Santiago. One bomb exploded in an abandoned house, and another exploded at a municipal office.

It was also reported that an empty bus was set on fire by unidentified individuals who sprinkled it with gasoline.

### Santiago Police Station, FACH Unit Attacked

*PY101520 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 10 Dec 87*

[Recorded relay from mobile unit by reporter Oscar Benito Rebolledo]

[Text] The 13th Police Precinct of San Gregorio District in Santiago was attacked with submachineguns and rockets at 0130 today.

Carabineros chief General Rodolfo Stange has been here for about 20 minutes to discuss the attack with his personnel.

Meanwhile, another attack took place at the FACH [Chilean Air Force] unit No 10.

FACH member Carlos Gutierrez, three Carabineros, and two civilians were wounded in these two attacks. They have all been hospitalized.

Both attacks—one at the FACH unit No 10 and the other at the 13th Police Precinct in San Gregorio—took place at 0130 today.

We must also report that a transformer located on Maipu Avenue between Ramon Freire Street and Central Avenue was blown up with explosives at 0500 today.

### Terrorists Attack Valparaiso Newspaper Office

*PY111318 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Report from Valparaiso]

[Text] Three armed terrorists, with their faces unmasked, hurled incendiary bombs at the offices of the daily EL MERCURIO in Valparaiso last night.

At 1930, the three individuals entered the hall of EL MERCURIO, pointed their guns at the receptionists, and then invaded the area where inquiries are handled and the advertisement department, which are located on the first floor. There, they hurled two incendiary bombs that set fire to rugs, a desk, several chairs, and documents. The attack lasted only 5 minutes and the attackers left behind an object they said was a bomb. Fortunately, it was not.

Carabineros pursued the attackers along Ross Alley and Blanco Street. One of the terrorists, who was being closely followed by a policeman, turned and fired. The injured Carabinero was identified as Corporal Hector Castillo Garrido, of the Valparaiso 2d Central Police Precinct. Castillo has been hospitalized at the Valparaiso Navy Hospital. His injuries are not very serious and his condition is good.

The terrorist who led the attack was wearing a suit, and the other two wore sportswear. We repeat that the terrorists, who are about 30 years old, were not wearing masks.

Police and security officers are conducting the usual investigation.

Once again, we repeat that the attack caused minor damage and the injured Carabinero is in good condition at the Navy Hospital.

### Arrest Made Regarding Attack

*PY120150 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Excerpts] The extremists' wickedness is constantly cropping up in various parts of the country, as demonstrated by last night's attack on the offices of the newspaper EL MERCURIO in Valparaiso, where at least one of the promoters of violence—who turned out to be a former university student—was arrested.

It was reported that the subversive has been identified as Jorge Fernando Torrijos Carrasco. According to his record, he was a freshman at the (?Valparaiso) Catholic University philosophy school in 1985, and then a freshman at the Spanish-language school in 1986. Later, Torrijos entered another college. However, all this was apparently just subterfuge, used as a pretext for his real activity: terrorism.

Torrijos, 28, used the nom de guerre Manuel within the Lautaro subversive group that perpetrated last night's attack against the offices of the newspaper EL MERCURIO at 302 Esmeralda Street. [passage omitted]

At the 2d Carabinero Precinct, Torrijos confessed his involvement in the attack and revealed the names of his three associates, who are now being eagerly sought in the 5th region.

A safe house of the subversive cell—which turned out to be the house of the former university student—was located thanks to the information supplied by the detainee. The house is located at 300 Subida Ecuador Street.

A Navy uniform, revolvers, pistols, a mimeograph machine, pamphlets, subversive reading material, and wigs—all of which are items used by these terrorist organizations to spread terror—were found at Torrijos' house. [passage omitted]

### Explosion Damages Mormon Church in Copiapo

*PY100103 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 Dec 87*

[Text] The explosion of about 400 grams of ammonium gelignite has seriously damaged the front door of a Mormon church at the intersection of Mendez and Rodriguez Street in Copiapo.

According to available reports, unidentified individuals placed a bomb near a flagpole in the front yard of the church.

Carabineros and security personnel inspected the scene and confirmed that the explosion seriously damaged the flagpole's base and that the resulting shock waves broke at least 16 glass panels. The panels, which were completely shattered, were part of the front door of the church and of windows on the southern side of the church.

A similar bombing occurred at the same church about 6 months ago.

### Subversives Occupy Radio Station, Air Message

*PY120156 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Report from La Serena]

[Text] The FM station Radio Guayacan of Coquimbo has been attacked for the second time.

Radio Nacional wanted to learn about the attack, so we contacted Radio Guayacan director Manuel Tenu, who made the following statement:

[Begin Tenu recording] Three unidentified individuals showed up at the radio station during the shift of supervisor Julio Fajardo.

When Fajardo opened the door, he was confronted by three men, two of whom wore dark glasses, while the third wore a balaclava and carried a handbag. The third man pulled a sawed-off shotgun from the handbag. One of them carried an automatic pistol.

Fajardo was forced to enter the recording room and play a cassette, which contained a proclamation.

Fajardo was then tied up and locked in the recording studio. [end recording]

## Colombia

### Justice Minister Cited on Ochoa Extradition

*PA111525 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 11 Dec 87*

[Text] Bogota—Justice Minister Enrique Low Murira has flatly said: Our hands are tied. He then admitted that at present there are no legal mechanisms for extraditing Colombians linked to drug trafficking to the United States.

During a heated debate at the House of Representatives, Low Murira admitted there are serious difficulties in extraditing Colombian nationals to the United States. He noted, however, that it is possible to negotiate new treaties with Washington that would make it possible to create legal extradition mechanisms.

The justice minister reiterated that, because of these circumstances, the government has not given any thought to extraditing Jorge Luis Ochoa for the time being. Ochoa, who was arrested on 21 November, is wanted by the U.S. authorities on drug trafficking charges.

For his part, Liberal Congressman Hernando Betancur Ramirez, [word indistinct] of the debate, emphasized that at this moment there are no legal mechanisms whatsoever for extradition. He noted that neither the agreement signed by the United States and Colombia in 1887 nor any other legal provision supposedly in effect can be used as a legal mechanism for sending Colombians to the United States.

### Pardo Replaces Ossa in Advisory Post

*PA120433 Paris AFP in Spanish 0235 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] Bogota, 11 Dec (AFP)—Carlos Ossa Escobar, presidential adviser for the reconciliation and rehabilitation of Colombia, quit his post today to run as Liberal Party candidate for mayor of Bogota.

On accepting Ossa's resignation, President Virgilio Barco designated Rafael Pardo Rueda, secretary of the Presidency's Office of Public Integration, to head the organization in charge of supervising the observation of the truce between the government and the principal guerrilla group of the country, the communist FARC.

### FARC Reiterates Call for Dialogue, Mediation

*PA121514 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 8 Dec 87 p 2*

[Text] Four of the six fronts of the self-styled FARC that operate in Caqueta have voiced support for the Catholic Church's mediation to resume the peace talks in this region. At the same time, they demanded freedom of action for the political parties in the forthcoming elections.

In fact, the members of the 3d, 13th, 15th, and 32d fronts of the FARC announced that as long as the language of dialogue is answered by the aggressive language of black propaganda and dirty warfare, their answer will continue to be a military one.

The FARC fronts said that "we believe the solution to the serious social and economic problems of the country as well as to the armed conflict is a political solution."

They insisted on resuming dialogue with the self-styled "Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board." The subversive fronts explained that because of the violent deaths of their fighters—Leonidas Jimenez, Numas Lozada, Hernando Valbuena, Delfin Perez, Johana Fayat, and Claudio Conte—they carried out the attacks in San Jose de Fragua and Albania, Caqueta that resulted in nine soldiers and four policemen being killed and several wounded.

Meanwhile, the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board emphasized that the armed movements are determined to unite in order to fight their common enemy.

"The crisis affecting the country is worsening. Comrade Jaime Pardo Leal was murdered in cowardly fashion. Prior to him, Hector Abad Gomez, Luis Felipe Velez, Leonardo Posada, Leonardo Betancur were killed. Pressures increase so that the church will contribute by mediating to find a solution. The attorney general speaks about some serious measures that the people support, such as calling for a constituent assembly to solve the constitutional chaos." This last quotation is taken from a newspaper published by the Secretariat of the FARC General Staff.

## Ecuador

### Congress Head Says People Distrust Government

*PA110234 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Dec 87*

[Text] At a news conference, Ecuadoran Congress Acting President Fernando Guerrero has stated that the National Congress is concerned over the political game being played by President Febres-Cordero and former government Minister Luis Robles Plaza.

Fernando Guerrero said that the Ecuadoran people completely distrust the government's statements and attitudes. Guerrero added that the only solution to this crisis is to absolutely respect the resolution issued by the national congress, which censured and dismissed Robles Plaza for his systematic violation of human rights.

[Begin Guerrero recording] There is very serious concern in congress about the game being played by the government concerning former Minister Robles Plaza. We are not insisting on this subject out of hatred. It is just that the country deserves more respect, gentlemen of the press and Ecuadoreans in general.

We just learned—and you know this, too—that leave was granted to the former minister thanks to a ministerial agreement, and that by virtue of this agreement, the government under secretary, who has no legal authority, assumes responsibilities which he did not have before. Ministerial agreements are changed with a flippancy that frightens us.

The government is leading us to believe that something wrong is going on in the country and that something bad will happen. The Ecuadoran people completely distrust the government. If the decision of congress is not respected, we will not avoid taking any necessary actions until this decision is honored.

You must know that yesterday we requested the nation's comptroller general to appear in congress at 1700 on 15 December to explain his handling of the Government Ministry's administrative and economic matters. This situation only creates a new climate of uneasiness, which, according to the president, was being overcome. However, we are again facing the unpleasant surprise of being deceived, of the country being deceived. [end recording]

## Briefs

### Agreement With Peru

The Ecuadoran and Peruvian agriculture ministers have signed several bilateral cooperation and rural development agreements. The agreements were signed in Ecuador during the Peruvian minister's brief visit. The agreements call for strengthening agricultural cooperation and border integration programs and created a binational agricultural commission to carry out the agreements. [Summary] *[Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 6 Dec 87 PA]*

## Paraguay

### Senate Approves Law Banning Use of Emblems

*PY111738 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 11 Dec 87 p 7*

[Excerpt] The Senate yesterday approved a law banning the use of emblems of parties that have not been recognized by the Central Electoral Court. The law was approved after debates between senators who will not longer be reelected and those who are on the list of Colorado Party and Radical Liberal Party candidates. The liberals who had voted against this bill at the Chamber of Deputies yesterday did not attend the Senate session. At one point Radicals were about to fight each other.

The document was presented by Ezequiel Gonzalez Alsina, head of the Constitutional Matters Committee. Gonzalez Alsina commented on "the misuse of political party names," and he said that, in conflictive situations, "the Central Electoral Court is given the authority to act on its own initiative or at the request of one of the parties that feels affected by the fact that another party is using its emblem."

Gonzalez Alsina said that this bill does not modify anything: "it enhances the political parties' right to recongition." He then compared it to the FRG electoral law and the Ecuadoran law, thus justifying its approval. [passage omitted]

### Dissident Colorado Faction Issues Manifesto

*PY121833 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 11 Dec 87 p 9*

[Text] A manifesto of a Colorado Party faction was issued this morning from a downtown office. Approximately 300 Colorado Party members signed the manifesto in which they state that they are representatives of "the authentic republican leadership throughout the country."

The document calls upon Colorado leaders to assume "a decisive and firm" attitude in the wake of "the critical situation our century-old political association is currently facing."

The pamphlet contains a historical summary describing General Stroessner's advent to power and the events that have occurred since, focusing on aspects of party autonomy, the current political situation, the Army and police forces, decadence, and crisis, and stressing the importance of "true peace and the state of law."

Well-known dissident Colorado leaders, such as Persio Da Silva, Angel Roberto Seifart, Jose Alberto Alderete (head of the Ignacio A. Pane center), Celso and Artemio Castillo Gamarra, Hugo Lopez, Derlis Esteche, Edgar Stanley (a former judge), Victor Pena Gamba, Rafael Jacobo, Nestor Vera, Carlos Martin Colarte, Luis Garay, and many others, signed the manifesto. In the manifesto they express ideas concerning the situation the country is experiencing.

### PLRA Leader To Be Released on Parole

*PY101634 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 10 Dec 87 p 21*

[Text] PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] leader Hermes Rafael Saguier was paroled today under the personal responsibility of his lawyer. Saguier will leave the Tacumbu prison today, after 3 months of detention.

Judge Benito Llanes signed Saguier's parole on 9 December, but Saguier could not leave the prison because his lawyer, Felino Amarilla, who has to sign the document, has traveled to the interior of the country.

Saguier will probably not be able to leave the prison today either because the police officers have today off and the inmates have to pass through several police offices before their final release. However, Saguier's lawyer said that they will try to secure his release.

### Release Order Appealed

*PY111605 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 11 Dec 87 p 22*

[Text] PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] leader Hermes Rafael Saguier, who has been charged with alleged incitment to violence under Article 3 of Law 209, will not be released after all.

State prosecutor Arnaldo Diaz has appealed Saguier's release, which had been already ordered by Judge Benito Llanes. The case will now be judged by the Appellate Court, which means that Saguier will have to await its ruling.

Expecting that her husband would be released yesterday, Saguier's wife Solange went to court with lawyer Felino Amarilla, who signed Saguier's bail papers.

### 'Solidarity Committee' Created in Brasilia

*PY091244 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 9 Dec 87 p 6*

[Text] Christian Democratic Party President Dr Luis Andrada Nogues and the leader of the People's Mobilization for Change movement of PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party], Dr Miguel Saguier, on 8 December left for Brasilia. They have gone to attend a ceremony during which the Committee of Solidarity with Paraguay will be created under the sponsorship of Brazilian federal lawmakers of several parties, among them the ruling PMDB.

It was reported that all the parties making up the National Accord were invited to send representatives to the ceremony.

It was learned that, among others, ruling party Senators Severo Gomes and Fredrerich Newton are sponsoring the "Committee of Solidarity with Paraguay."

## Suriname

### Lachmon Sworn in at National Assembly

*FL101953 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 10 Dec 87*

[Text] Today, Jaggernath Lachmon, by virtue of his being the oldest elected member to the National Assembly, was sworn in by Acting President Fred Ramdat-Misier. The VHP [Progressive Reformed Party] chairman said he will swear in the other 50 assembly members tomorrow.

Next week, Monday, Lachmon will summon the first meeting of the new National Assembly during which the letters of credence of the Assembly members will be investigated. According to Lachmon, next week the Assembly will decide on the admittance of the members who are elected in the Brokopondo, Marowijne, and Sipaliwini Districts.

Lachmon finally stated that it's not yet sure when the assembly will elect the president and the vice president.

### Prime Minister, Cabinet Present Resignations

*PA130255 Paris AFP in Spanish 1848 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] Paramaribo, 12 Dec (AFP)—Surinamese Prime Minister Jules Wijdenbosch and his cabinet today presented their resignations to Commander Desi Bouterse, military head of the country, to pave the way for a new civil government, but have decided to remain in their posts for the time being, according to the Surinamese Press Agency SNA.

Meanwhile, most of the 51 new members of the National Assembly (Parliament) elected on 25 November were sworn in today. They will, in turn, in the next few weeks elect a president who will appoint a cabinet and vice president.

Senior parliamentarian Jaggernath Lachmon, who had previously been sworn in by the Electoral Council, swore in the new members.

Lachmon is the leader of the Progressive Reformed Party (VHP), which is composed of Hindustanis, one of the three main ethnic groups of Suriname, formerly Dutch Guyana; the Javanese of Willy Soemita's Indonesian Peasants' Party; and the blacks and mestizos of the Suriname National Party (NPS) of former Christian Democrat Prime Minister Henk Arron.

These three Conservative or Centrist parties joined the Front For Democracy and Development, which won 40 Assembly seats.

This majority will allow Arron to choose the new president of the country from his NPS. However, he has not stated who will be chosen.

The elections and the forming of the new civil government comes after 7 years of military rule under Bouterse, who overthrew Arron through a coup d'etat in February 1980.

The military regime faced serious economic problems, with a decrease in foreign revenue through the drop in price of the country's raw materials export (bauxite, rice, lumber), shortages, and unemployment. The country has also been deprived of financial aid from the Netherlands since 1982.

Moreover, a year ago, Bouterse had to face a strong rural guerrilla movement, which is presently on the wane. This situation led Bouterse to yield to the demand to return to the barracks and to return power to the civilians. The Constitution approved in September, however, guarantees some political prerogatives to the Army.

The National Assembly could not be formed definitely this week because there are differences as to who should occupy the 10 seats corresponding to the three vast districts to the South and East of the country: Sipalwindi, Marowijne, and Brokopondo.

The 10 seats were won by Pendawalima group (4), Progressive Workers' and Farm Laborers' Union (PALU, 4 seats), both of which are leftist groups of the Front, and by the National Democratic Party (NPD) organized by Bouterse and his faithful followers (2 seats). Lachmon said that the Assembly will decide who will occupy those seats, "bearing in mind the nation's interests."

Meanwhile, SNA has reported that next week civilian traffic on the highway linking Paramaribo with the eastern part of the country will be restored, although only during the daytime.

According to SNA, the highway has been repaired. It was the scene in the second half of 1986—and with lesser intensity at the beginning of 1987—of attacks by the rural guerrillas led by young former soldier Ronnie Brunswijk.

Brunswijk—supported by about 200 "Bush-negroes," descendents of "Cimaaron" slaves who live in the woods—attacked sectors along the highway, particularly the Moengo mining center 100 km east of Paramaribo, and the city of Albina, which borders French Guiana.

Albina (with a population of 5,000) had to be evacuated and many of its inhabitants sought refuge in the neighboring French territory.

## Problems Facing Country's Politicians Viewed

*PM091121 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 3 Dec 87 p 6*

[Han Hansen article: "Bouterse Still Decides How Much Political Freedom There Is"]

[Text] Amsterdam—Party leader Bouterse may have lost a battle in the Surinamese elections, but in the war for governmental control of the country he is still standing. This can also be inferred from the striking reticence of the three old political parties after their thundering victory at the ballot box. Or to put it more strongly: Lachmon and Arron have unexpectedly retreated from their hints during the election campaign that in the event of their having a two-thirds majority in the new parliament they would cleanse the Constitution of strong military influences.

In actual fact, according to the Constitution essential changes would only be possible after 5 years. Until then the military authorities' position of power in and alongside the high-level civilian bodies will remain untouchable. The old political parties are said to have agreed to this arrangement when the draft constitution was being discussed in exchange for Bouterse's promise that free and secret elections would be allowed.

Fred Derby of the defeated Surinamese Labor Party has already spoken expressly of "a violation of the election promise" by the Creole Surinamese National Party (led by Arron), the Hindustani Progressive Reformed Party (led by Lachmon), and the Javanese Indonesian Peasants' Party (led by Soemita). The overwhelming support by the people for these three parties, working together in the Front for Democracy and Development, must have been largely inspired by the promised changes to the Constitution designed to drive the military back to the barracks. This will undoubtedly remain the objective of the old political parties, but they will not be tackling it overhastily, in order to be able to preserve their fragile peace with the Army leadership.

The voters also had other reasons for their overwhelming support for the Front: Lachmon, Arron, and Soemita were to restore the old relationship with the Netherlands in the shortest possible time. This would lay the foundation for the resumption of development aid from the Netherlands and the scarcity and the high prices of essential goods would soon be things of the past. It is likely that it will become apparent within a couple of months that this expectation was far too optimistic.

If the Netherlands is to be prepared to resume the flow of money soon after the government declaration by a new government in Paramaribo, a detailed structure and a well constructed development plan must first be drawn up. This takes time. In the short term, generous credits and special funds for emergency imports of scarce essentials, at the same time as the rapid reconstruction of Suriname's derelict "self-sufficiency," seem to be the most urgent steps. The reform of the economy in this way will require great patience on the part of the population.

Next year disappointment over delays in economic restoration could end in growing unrest, to which oppositional groups will not omit to make their contribution. If what observers predict for the cooperation between the Surinamese National Party and the Progressive Reform Party also comes to pass—growing friction with each other—Bouterse could wait quietly for a favorable moment for the military authorities to again take over the reins "in the national interest."

The Hague must consider here the central question of whether the restoration of development aid will not have a "regime-confirming" effect. The Constitution still leaves Bouterse with a comfortable position. In order to be able to survive politically Arron and Lachmon in their

turn must do everything to prevent the further postponement of the Netherlands aid the country cannot do without. The government and parliament in The Hague will undoubtedly realize this. "Better a military-controled democracy with human rights that are reasonably well respected than no democracy at all," is an argument that has already been used in the hague.

The question remains to what extent Brunswijk's rebel club will continue to have a disruptive effect on the delicate power game in Paramaribo. The Jungle Commando will no longer be able to make its presence greatly felt. This is part of the reason why Brunswijk, in his unilateral declaration of a cease-fire until January, has challenged the old political parties in Paramaribo to sit down with him for peace talks. But here too Bouterse will determine how much freedom the politicians have to reach an accord with the "terrorists."

The Army commander will have little sympathy for Brunswijk, who has caused the National Army to suffer so much loss of face. And this just makes any future attempt by the old politicians to bring about peace more difficult.

### Henk Arron Interviewed on Nominations

*FL101453 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 9 Dec 87*

[Text] The new president must be a nationalist and accepted by the community. This was stated by NPS [Suriname National Party] Chairman Henk Arron in an interview with our newsroom this morning. Arron said his party certainly has candidates for the presidential post but declined to mention names.

The former prime minister gave the assurance that all parties could nominate candidates adding that it would be stupid to reject candidates who are not aligned to a political party. The NPS chairman said it's not impossible for women to be nominated for the post of president or a post in the cabinet.

The National Assembly, as is expected, will elect the president and vice president next week from those who are nominated.

### Front Holds Most Boards, District Seats

*FL102004 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 10 Dec 87*

[Text] Apart from the National Assembly, the Front for Democracy and Development dominates almost all Record Boards and District Councils. The Front holds almost all Record Board and Council seats in 7 of the 10 districts. Apart from a few seats in the Para District, all District Council seats are for the Front.

In the controversial Brokopondo, Marowijne, and Sipaliwini Districts, most of the Record Boards seats went to the NDP [National Democratic Party] followed by the PALU [Progressive Workers' and Farm Laborers' Union] and Pendawalima.

The Front for Democracy and Development didn't contest elections at any level in these three districts.

The District Councils are put together on the basis of the amount of seats each party received in the different records.

### Former Assembly Chairman Leaves Office

*FL102016 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 10 Dec 87*

[Text] National Assembly Chairman Ulrich Aron this week said farewell to his staff and personnel. He also paid farewell visits to the president, the prime minister, and the government leaders and thanked them for the help they gave him during his tenure in office.

Aron was the first chairman of this new organ, which was installed 3 years ago with the main task of making a draft for the new Constitution and to work out democratic structures. These tasks were fulfilled with the holding of the referendum of the Constitution at the end of September and the general elections of last month.

It is expected that the new members of the National Assembly will be installed next week.

### NDP-Held Village Board Holds First Meeting

*FL111540 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 10 Dec 87*

[Text] The Records Boards at (Vikipoika) in the Para District held its first meeting during which debates were held with the village captains. The greatest wish of the inhabitants is the normalization of the area which went through sacrifices during the past year because of the terror actions of the Brunswijk gang. They hope that with early normalization, medical care could be restored and schools in the area could be reopened. With the exception of (Vikipoika), the Front for Democracy and Development, won the largest amount of seats on the records boards. At (Vikipoika), the National Democratic Party (NDP) has the majority of seats. The Records Boards members emphasized at the meeting that they will settle down to look after the interests of all the people in the village.

## NOTES